THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • SEPTEMBER 28, 2020 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 48 • LATE CITY EDITION

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INDIANS FAR FROM HERD IMMUNITY: 2ND SERO-SURVEY

The ICMR's second sero-survey shows the Indian population is still far from achieving herd immunity against Covid-19

REGULATORY APPROVAL AWAITED

During a social media interaction, Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said the ICMR is researching on reports of reinfection and, although the number of such cases is negligible, the government is fully seized of the importance of the matter. He, however, cautioned that the sero-survey report should not create a sense of complacency among people

EXPERTS TO STUDY FACETS OF COVID-19

- On the emerging evidence that the infection also affects organ systems, the minister said experts are looking into these facets
- He added that India has also made rapid strides in the manufacture of ventilators, PPEs, and testing kits, among others

0.73%

COVID PREVALENCE AS PER MAY SERO-SURVEY

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

PROTEST AGAINST GOVT MOVE

Karnataka braces for bandh today as farmers stand firm

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

WITH farmers' unions all set to hold rallies, sit-in protests and agitations across Karnataka on Monday as part of their dawn-to-dusk bandh, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa has appealed to the leaders to call off their stir. Insisting that a bandh cannot be allowed, the CM on Sunday said his government and its decisions were pro-farmer.

Farmers unions like the Karnataka Pranthya Raitha Sangha, Karnataka Hasiru Sene, etc., have called for a bandh protesting against controversial farm and land bills by the Union and State Governments from 6 am to 6 pm on Monday. After the CM's talks with farmer union leaders failed, the organisations have decided to go ahead with the bandh, backed by labour unions, Dalit organisations, opposition parties like the Congress and the JDS and most importantly, pro-Kannada organisations.

While farmers' union leaders have threatened to block state and national highways, the Karnataka Government has warned of strict action against anyone disrupting normal life on Monday.

"Our government's stand and the PM's intentions are pro-farmer. We brought amendments to allow farmers to sell their produce with full freedom anywhere in the country and have fulfilled a long-pending request. Our farmers' union leaders should at least now understand this. They should stop this unnecessary bandh. There is no scope for a bandh, it will not be allowed," the CM said.

Even as the government insisted that public transport will not be stalled, the Ola and Uber drivers' association has backed the bandh. Protesting farmers, members of labour unions and student organisations will gather at Town hall at 11 am.

"The Modi and Yeddyurappa governments are snatching the lives and livelihoods of our farmers. The diabolical amendments to the Land Reforms Act and APMC Act are proof of conspiracy to enslave our farmers. Karnataka Congress supports the bandh call given by farmer organisations," said Randeep Singh Surjewala, AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka.

Surjewala arrived in Bengaluru on Sunday to lead the party's protest. KPCC president D K Shivakumar and legislature party chief Siddaramaiah will also participate in the protest outside party headquarters.

Former PM H D Deve Gowda too said his party supports farmers. "The JDS unequivocally backs the statewide bandh called for by farmers unions against the land reforms which pose the danger of rendering small and marginal farmers landless, lured by big corporate companies," he said. P4

We brought amendments to allow farmers to sell their produce with full freedom anywhere in the country and have fulfilled a long-pending request. Our farmers' union leaders should at least now understand this.

— B S Yediyurappa, CM

The land reforms pose the danger of rendering small and marginal farmers landless, lured by big corporate companies

— H D Deve Gowda, JDS national president

Businesses, offices will be open, says minister

Revenue Minister R Ashoka said, "There will be no bandh. There is no opportunity for such bandhs as per court orders. Government offices, hospitals, shops and businesses, transport services will function normally. Citizens need not worry and can continue with their routine. Stringent action will be taken against anyone indulging in violence."

Farm bills get President's assent

Farmer organisations plan Kurukshetra meet from Oct 8 to take the agitation pan-India

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

HOURS before three contentious farm sector bills became law after President Ram Nath Kovind's assent, farmer leaders here decided to hold consultations with their counterparts across the country from October 8 at Kurukshetra to evolve a pan-India agitation strategy so as to pressure the Centre to recall the new pieces of legislation.

According to a gazette notification, the President gave assent to The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill 2020. The Opposition had urged Kovind to return the bills, saying they were passed without following due process.

While the farm agitation continues to rock Punjab, elsewhere it has not found similar resonance. Bharatiya Kisan Union's (Rajewal Group) Punjab president Balbir Singh Rajewal said, "A meeting was held on Sunday in which leaders of farm organisations from Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh took part. To take the agitation pan-India, it was decided that, on October 8, a marathon meeting will be held at Kurukshetra for two-three days. Two to three representatives of all famers' organisations from across the country will be invited for the brainstorming sessions."

Meanwhile, farmers in Punjab squatted on the Amritsar-Delhi railway track on Sunday to wrap up their three-day 'rail-roko' agitation. From October 1, they intend to launch an indefinite 'rail-roko' in Punjab.

Sarwan Singh Pandher, general secretary of the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee, an umbrella group that is leading the agitation, said BJP leaders will not be allowed to enter Punjab villages in protest.

Modi's hardsell

Reaching out to farmers, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the farm sector and farmers are the very basis of Atmanirbhar Bharat, adding the farm bills ensure freedom to sell their produce anywhere at higher rates | P7

Bikers take off on a rally which was flagged off by Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa from Vidhana Soudha on the occasion of World Tourism Day, in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHRIRAM BN

Tourism policy eyes ₹5,000 cr spend by 2025

Bengaluru: Karnataka on Sunday unveiled its new Tourism policy, which aims to generate over 10 lakh direct and indirect jobs in the sector and Rs 5,000 crore in investments by 2025. With the new policy, the government aims at increasing the contribution of tourism from 14.8 per cent to 20 per cent of GSDP by 2025. "Agri Tourism and Rural Tourism are the core tourism themes of the policy with the objective to promote not just agricultural and farming activities but also various aspects of rural life in Karnataka such as local cuisine, culture, traditions, arts etc," the State Government said | P2

KARNATAKA COVID-19 BATTLE

9,543 TEST POSITIVE ON SUNDAY

- All artistes participating at the Dasara celebrations in Mysuru to be tested
- Bengaluru Urban district reports 4,217 positive cases on Sunday
- The state reported 79 fatalities during the day

P4

MONETARY REVIEW

RBI may stick to status quo on rates

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

WITH inflation rising, mainly due to supply side issues, the Reserve Bank of India may keep interest rates unchanged in the forthcoming bilateral monetary policy, according to market experts.

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, is scheduled to meet for three days starting September 29. The resolution of the MPC will be announced on October 1. Das had earlier said that though there is headroom for further monetary policy action, it is important to keep 'our arsenal dry and use it judiciously'.

In its last MPC meeting in August, the central bank had kept policy rates unchanged to help tame inflation which had surged past the 6 per cent mark in recent times. The RBI has cut policy rates by 115 bps since February.

On the upcoming policy review, industry body Confederation of India Industry said, "The RBI should maintain its accommodative stance, while avoiding a rate cut for now, given the stickiness in consumer price index inflation. While supporting growth is critical, the RBI could wait till there is some visible moderation in inflation."

Assocham Secretary General Deepak Sood too felt the RBI should continue in a more pronounced way the accommodative stance on the policy interest rates in the wake of serious challenges due to contraction in the economy induced by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Bengaluru eyes future mobility with hyperloop link to airport

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

IMAGINE commuting from the city to Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in a flash. The Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) and Virgin Hyperloop on Sunday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a feasibility study to link Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) with the city with super high-speed hyperloop transportation. If the project takes off, this will be the first hyperloop transportation system in India.

This mode of transportation uses electric propulsion and electromagnetic levitation under near-vacuum conditions. With speeds of up to 1,080 kmph, the hyperloop can transport thousands of passengers per hour from the airport to the city in under 10 minutes, according to a preliminary analysis. Travellers can also streamline their multimodal trip with seamless check-in and security for both their hyperloop as well as air travel at centrally-located hyperloop portals.

WHAT'S IN IT

- MoU to study viable hyperloop corridors from Bengaluru airport
- BIAL eyes making airport a transportation hub
- Hyperloop can connect the airport to the city centre in 10 minutes

Virgin Hyperloop, an American transportation technology company which works to commercialise the high-speed hyperloop technology concept, claims to be the only company in the world that has successfully tested the technology at scale, launching the first new mode of mass transportation in over 100 years.

The company successfully operated a full-scale hyperloop vehicle using electric propulsion and electromagnetic levitation under near-vacuum conditions in Texas, US, realizing a fundamentally new form of transportation that is faster, safer, cheaper, and more sustainable than existing modes. The company is now working with governments, partners, and investors around the world to make hyperloop transportation a reality in a few years. P2

EXPRESS READ

No intention of joining hands with Sena: BJP

Mumbai: Former Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday asserted that the BJP has no intention of joining hands with the Shiv Sena or to bring down the Maha Vikas Aghadi government.

Two militants killed in encounter in Pulwama

Srinagar: Two militants were killed in an encounter with security forces, during a cordon and search operation in the Samboora area, in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on Sunday.

Pregnant woman among 7 killed in road mishap

Kalaburagi: Seven people, including a pregnant woman, were killed in Kalaburagi district early on Sunday, when the car they were travelling in rammed into a parked truck, police said.

IPL TODAY

BANGALORE VS MUMBAI

After a winning start, RCB suffered a big defeat at the hands of Kings XI Punjab. It showed their death bowling and middle-order remains a cause of concern. MI, on the other hand, responded to their defeat against CSK by making a strong statement against KKR.

RESULT: RR beat KXIP

ODDS: RCB 6/5 MI 3/4

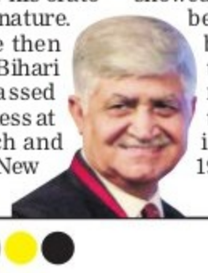
LIVE: Star Sports1/Hotstar @ 7.30pm

UNIFORM TO KHADI

Jaswant Singh got angry on seeing Capt Saurabh Kalia's autopsy report

GENERAL V P MALIK (RETD)

THE demise of Jaswant Singhji is a big loss to the country as we lost a politician of the old school who used to be very dignified and committed to his responsibilities. He used to respect every person in uniform and was liked by everyone for his oratory and unassuming nature. He was close to the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Singh passed away after a long illness at the Army's Research and Referral Hospital in New Delhi. He was 82.



While I was Chief of Army Staff, he was the Minister of External Affairs and we got to interact during the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) meetings. He always used to participate in the meetings very actively and had lots of inputs to offer. Although he never showed his anger in public, he became agitated after I briefed him about the autopsy report of Capt Saurabh Kalia (who was captured by Pakistani intruders on May 15, 1999). Pakistan had returned his mutilated body on June 9.

As Singh was to address the media that day, I had advised him to let the post-mortem report come in, so that we could ascertain the facts. I remember him coming to the Military Operations room where I showed him the autopsy report. He became visibly angry. Later, when he briefed the media, he used harsh words which he would never have otherwise.

While the Kargil operations were on, we used to often brief the CCS, and during one such meeting, we got to know that

JASWANT SINGH 3 JAN 1938 ● 27 SEP 2020

Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan's Prime Minister, wanted to send his foreign minister Sartaj Aziz for talks, but I was reluctant. I thought while troops were fighting in Kargil, it could have sent a wrong message to the soldiers on the battlefront. But, all my fears were gone by the way Singh handled the entire situation. When Aziz arrived on June 12, 1999, Singh did not shake hands with him. Although Singh maintained decorum, he displayed his anger with his body language, making it clear that he was not interested in talking to Aziz.

There was respect for Singh from every quarter. In fact, his opinion in the CCS meetings carried a lot of weight. This was confirmed to me by Yashwant Sinha after I had left the service. During one of my meetings with Sinha, I told him of the faster decision-making on the defence sector during that time. Sinha had no qualms in admitting that even on defence matters, the words of Singh carried a lot of weight. P8

(The author is ex-Army Chief. As told to Mayank Singh)

Jaswant Singh Ji will be remembered for his unique perspective on matters of politics and society... I will always remember our interactions. Om Shanti — Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

WITH THIS ISSUE
THE ESSENTIAL CAMPUS DIGEST edex YOUR LIFE COACH
48 PAGES, INCLUDING 32 OF edex (TABLOID)

ALMANAC TODAY
Monday 28/09/2020 • Year: Sarvari • Ayana : Dakshinayana • Ritu: Sharad
Masa: Adhika Ashwayuja • Paksha: Sukla • Tithi: Dwadashi 9.35 pm
Nakshatra: Dhanishta 12.02 pm • Moon in Kumbha Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER WATCH
MIN 20°C | MAX 28°C
FORECAST
Thunderstorms. Partly sunny

Sunrise 6.08 am
Sunset 6.11 pm
Moonrise 12.00 pm
Moonset 3.11 am

Tourism policy to ride on three Cs

Culture, Craft, Cuisine will be the focus; ₹ 5K cr investment to create 190 projects by 2025

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister B S Yediyurappa on Sunday unveiled the state's new tourism policy which aims to generate over 10 lakh direct and indirect jobs in the sector and ₹5,000 crore in investments by 2025. Revenue Minister R Ashoka was present.

The policy promotes 26 different types of products focusing on three Cs — Culture, Craft and Cuisine. And the first in this line — caravan tourism — has already been flagged off. Through the disbursal of Rs 409.5 crore in subsidies for five years, a minimum of Rs 2,789 crore is expected for Karnataka's tourism sector. The investment shall lead to the creation or significant expansion of 190 tourism projects in the state.

"Under 'Baa, Nodu Baa' (Come and See) tagline, we are promoting rural and agri tourism. We want to pin the lesser known places on the tourism map. So we have asked citizens to create at least a 30-second video of the place and upload on social media, tagging the department. We will promote it," Tourism and Kannada and Culture Minister C T Ravi said.

The policy's aim is to revive the state's economy after the pandemic and to draw tourists to unexplored and isolated destinations. It also aims to increase the contribution of the sector from 14.8 per cent to 20 per cent of the GDP by 2025, Ravi said. A tourism development fund has also been set up to identify land and set up hotels, wherever the need is. The policy gives importance to the role of tourism in achieving the sustainable development goals set by the UN, he said.

"Ever since the lockdown has been lifted, there has been a 30 per cent income generation from tourism and more needs to be done," Ravi said.

"It will be only by March that tourists will start coming to the state. This December holiday season will see a lull from those coming from other states. And the new policy will help revive the sector," Ravi told TNIE on the sidelines of the launch of the Tourism Policy 2020- 25 as part of the World Tourism Day.

Tourism department officials said they were also looking for hotels, resorts and areas where locals and tourists throng. "If there is a hotel which many tourists visit, but is not on social media and has good road connectivity, tell us. We will geotag it, offer subsidies for expansion and promotion," an official said.

The Kali Valley in Kali Tiger Reserve, Dandeli. Under 'Baa, Nodu Baa' (Come and See) tagline, the tourism department is promoting rural and agri tourism | EXPRESS

> It will be only by March that tourists will start coming to the state. This December holiday season will see a lull from those coming from other states. And the new policy will help revive the sector
>
> C T Ravi, Tourism Minister

'Will now develop entire region instead of one spot'

Bengaluru: Kumar Pushkar, Managing Director, Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation, said the tourism policy will also focus on domestic tourism as international tourists will take a while to come back. Speaking at an international webinar — A Travel Talk on Tomorrow's Destination — organised by World Communicators Council and Public Relations Council of India, as part of the World Tourism Day, he said the focus is now on developing a region for tourism rather than a place. "Tourists no longer plan a seven-day itinerary where they just visit a few places. They prefer to stay at a destination for a few days and explore the surroundings, this is what the department is also addressing now," he said. Pushkar used the platform to call upon all stakeholders for community participation to offer holistic tourism for domestic tourists. "More than a Goa trip or a Rajasthan tour, the rush at this time is more towards spiritual and religious destinations," said Ankan Ganguli, Founder, My Tirth India, on Sunday. Ganguli said the queues outside malls are nearly empty when compared to outside religious places. It is the belief, which is the prime contributor to the tourism sector and to the GDP. They said that apart from revival, survival is crucial and so environment-friendly and safe holiday places are being preferred by tourists, along with wellness tourism. **ENS**

75% of heart failure patients reach hospitals late: Survey

RANJANI MADHAVAN
@Bengaluru

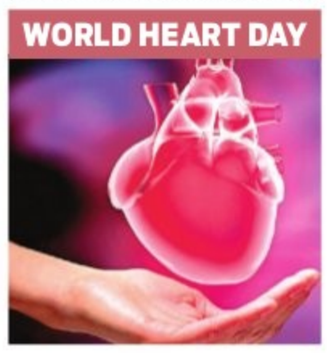
AN informal survey conducted by two cardiologists in Bengaluru found that 75% of Bengalureans who suffer from a heart failure, reach a cardiologist only at an advanced stage due to the lack of awareness.

The survey was conducted on 1,000 patients by Dr Rahul Patil, interventional cardiologist and head of premature heart disease division, Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, and Dr S S Iyengar, consultant cardiologist, Manipal Hospital.

They found that more than 60% of heart failure patients had uncontrolled diabetes and almost 50% of them suffered from high blood pressure. Heart failure is a progressive and chronic condition in which the heart muscle becomes stiff or weak overtime and is unable to circulate blood properly.

"Patients ignore initial symptoms and attribute it to old age, fatigue, lack of energy, leg swelling and mild breathlessness while going about their daily activities. They goto the hospital only when the symptoms become severe, including breathlessness. This leads to multi-organ failure and even death," said Dr Patil.

He said coronary artery disease, which is a block in the coronary arteries, leads to a heart attack which in turn causes muscle damage. Experts have asked people who are vulnerable — those above 50 years, obese, smokers, alcoholics, and those who suffer from diabetes and hypertension — to be more aware.



"At times, patients develop compensated heart failure, where the body adjusts to a change in the heart's pumping ability, which goes undetected. Their condition deteriorates suddenly and they come to a hospital with low oxygen saturation levels," Patil added.

"It is imperative for patients with chronic conditions like diabetes, coronary artery disease, heart valve diseases, congenital heart diseases and patients on anti-cancer drugs, to get themselves screened regularly for heart failure. Early diagnosis and treatment can help in its prevention," said Dr Iyengar.

'Hyperloop may help tackle traffic congestion'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ACCORDING to the MoU, the pre-feasibility study, which focuses on technical, economic and route planning, is expected to be completed in two phases, each of six months. "The commissioning of the feasibility study for hyperloop connectivity from KIA is another major step towards building the infrastructure required to define mobility for the future, enabling efficient movement of people," said Karnataka Chief Secretary T M Vijay Bhaskar.

Sultan bin Sulayem, Chairman of Virgin Hyperloop and Group Chairman and CEO of DP World, said, "We are exploring ways in which the hyperloop can become a part of the solution to tackle congestion and support economic growth in Bengaluru. Beyond just the transit of passengers, airports are crucial conduit for goods, especially time-sensitive deliveries. A hyperloop-connected airport will dramatically improve the delivery of cargo and create an ultra-efficient supply chain."

The MoU was exchanged virtually between Sultan bin Sulayem, and Vijay Bhaskar, who is also Chairman of the Board of Directors at BIAL, in the presence of Kapil Mohan, Principal Secretary, Infrastructure Development Department, Karnataka.

"Technological innovation is key to building and sustaining a world-class transportation hub, and this (feasibility) study is an important step forward," said Hari Marar, MD and CEO, BIAL.

Jay Walder, CEO of Virgin Hyperloop, said, "A hyperloop-enabled airport will not only allow faster travel, it will create a 21st century passenger experience and expand airport capacity."

The KIA, a major transit hub in the south, will be connected with the suburban railway in a few weeks and will have Metro connectivity in four years.

EXPRESS READ

Student gets 18 medals, highest in NLSIU history

Yamuna Menon, a BA LLB (Hons) Degree graduate at the 28th annual convocation of National Law School of India University (NLSIU), received 18 medals on Sunday — the highest in the history of the university. A total of 48 gold medals were awarded to graduates from different academic programmes. As many as 40 graduated from the Master of Public Policy Programme, 45 from the Master of Laws Programme, 77 from the Bachelor of Arts and Laws (Honours) Programme , 411 students from the Distance Education Programmes (Masterof Business Laws Degree and other Postgraduate Diploma off-campus programmes), and just three students received PhD. **ENS**

HAL Deputy GM (Design) wins IETE award

Deputy General Manager (Design) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Ajay Khare won the Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers (IETE) award for the year 2020. He was awarded for his work in Full Life Cycle Development of Indigenous Mission and Safety Critical Avionics Systems from conceptualisation and design to certification and production. Khare was instrumental in establishing two successful avionics product lines — Mission Computers and Solid State Flight Data Recorders — in HAL. **ENS**

Highway pitstops no longer taboo, biz slowly picks up

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Covid-induced lockdown and initial phases of Unlock had a disastrous impact on hotels and restaurants along highways. Curbs on travel and the fear of catching the virus had kept patrons, primarily tourists, away the past few months. However, now, things are slowly picking up, and footfall is increasing.

While traffic on highways coming to the state has gone down by 50-60 per cent, traffic from Bengaluru to remote areas and villages has increased, observed Akash Rai Kamat, COO, Kamat Upachar Group.

"People are getting bored working from home through the week, so they step out for one-day trips to nearby tourist spots, and stop at hotels along highways. On certain stretches where we have our branches, business has almost returned to normal. We have been seeing travellers going from Bengaluru to Mysuru and Mangaluru, stopping at our outlets," said Kamat. However, he has not seen the same rise in footfall at branches along highways leading to Hyderabad, Mumbai, the coastal belt of Karnataka, Belagavi, Ballari, Chitradurga and Shivamogga.

The fear of eating out is strong among customers, and many choose to carry food from home on their trips. The mode of transport shifting from public to private has also taken a toll on people stopping at highway joints.

At Shivalli restaurant, which falls on the route from Bengaluru to Channapatna, business has improved after the lockdown was lifted. "Before the pandemic broke out, around 400 vehicles would stop here per day on weekdays, and 600 on weekends. Now, this number has come down to 200 per day. Our expenditure has increased by 10-15 per cent just to maintain hygiene," said Girish Kalkur, owner of Shivalli.

P C Rao, president, Bruhat Bangalore Hotel Association, said lorry and truck drivers prefer stopping at roadside dhabas rather than hotels and restaurants.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

28th September: Today's lively Moon could bring all sorts of erratic and unpredictable behaviour. My colleagues in the medical world tell me that accident and emergency departments are likely to be full of people who didn't look where they were going. The message? It's time to be much more careful!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Do keep a secret, even if you suspect that others know what you're up to. You're too busy to indulge too many little whims, especially partners' trivial foibles. Do bear in mind that overseas connections are vital. News from a far will soon lift your emotions.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Just what are other people up to? Somebody certainly seems to have a big claim on your time. Whether you should indulge their demands, though, is another question. On the whole, I don't think you have anything to lose, and you may have a great deal to gain!

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You seem to have lost control over one important matter, probably something to do with day-to-day survival and responsibilities. Yet there's no problem that can't be solved by putting engagements off for a couple of days or weeks - or even months!

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The day's stars certainly seem generally auspicious, but it is uncertain whether you really should be ambitious on your own account. You see, when passions are rising, life can go in any direction without warning. A good compromise may be to do your best by others!

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
In many respects the current season is designed with you in mind. You were born with ample reserves of bonhomie and jolly generosity and it's fair enough for family, friends and partners to expect you to take the lead. Put any qualms to one side.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
It's not easy to take those awkward decisions, but why worry? Social events should take care of themselves, while even family questions will be answered to your satisfaction. The past should provide the inspiration for the present - and tomorrow, the future actually becomes the present!

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
You may be relieved of a choice that needs to be made at home. On the one hand your dilemma may become far less pressing. On the other, you will find it much easier to talk to people around you. Luckily social prospects improve dramatically tomorrow, so keep your options open.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
It now looks increasingly likely that a partner may have something significant to say, especially if you have inadvertently thrown your weight around. On the other hand, you may appreciate their apparent new-found interest in your affairs.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
You will be liberated from a promised - or threatened - expense, but perhaps not for another forty-eight hours. All you can do now, though, is cough up and hope for the best - then wait. Social, romantic and emotional stars remain primed for passion at any price.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Today's top planetary pictures are somewhat sensitive and therefore ideal for those about to be swept away on a wave of sentiment. A special word for any of you expecting good news: seize the high ground and take no nonsense from anybody.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
For you more than most people, the meaning of the current week is extremely important and, if you listen to the voices within, you may gain one or two mystical realisations. You'll not be a hermit, though, as the relationship between stars in your house of friends and house of partners remains very special.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
The Moon is at your beck and call in a delicate and indecisive sort of a manner, which is an astrological way of saying that you may actually call the shots at home. Do so with your normal sensitivity and make a little time for business like gatherings later on.

THE PHANTOM

YOU WANT ME TO REPLY TO MARA SAHARA?
THAT MIGHT BE BEST....
SHE'S A MOTHER SEARCHING FOR HER LOST DAUGHTER.
SHE'LL BE REASSURED TO SEE A REPLY IN A FEMININE HAND.
Falk 7/27
NOW THEN! TAKE A LETTER, MS. WALKER....
CUTIE!

HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

DEAR, I HAVE AN ESTIMATE FOR REPLACING OUR OLD FURNACE
WHAT'S THE ESTIMATE?
YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW, SWEETHEART
"YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW, SWEETHEART" IS NEVER MY FAVORITE ESTIMATE
I KNOW, SWEETHEART

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE

Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

SUDOKU

5		3		4				
						8		
	7					5	2	1
			2				8	
	9		1	8	3		7	
	4				9			
2	6	9					1	
		7						
				7		6		2

EVIL

- Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.
- Each sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

9	7	3	6	5	1	4	8	2
6	4	8	2	3	7	9	5	1
5	2	1	8	9	4	6	7	3
1	6	4	3	8	2	7	9	5
3	5	2	7	4	9	1	6	8
8	9	7	5	1	6	3	2	4
4	8	6	9	2	3	5	1	7
2	3	9	1	7	5	8	4	6
7	1	5	4	6	8	2	3	9

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

REUVC
TOHOP
FNELEN
EEESDC

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here: ( ) ( ) - ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: JOINT SHAKY BITTER ABRUPT
Answer: To name the body of water Magellan traveled through, she needed to — THINK "STRAIT"

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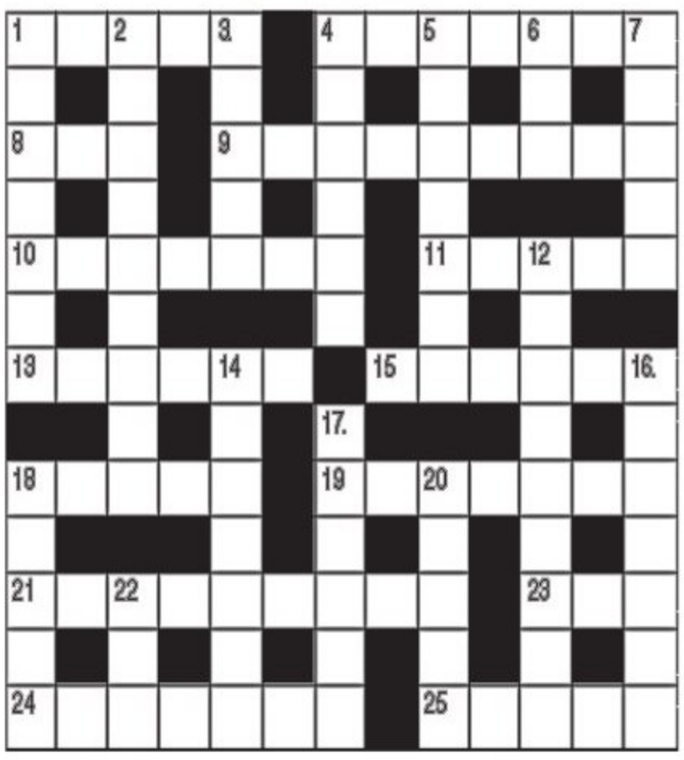
CROSS WORD



ACROSS

1 Girl going out (5)
4 Misguided claim about American stage show (7)
8 Produce a high ball (3)
9 It may be present in March or April (6,3)
10 Many praise one, a lady of Rome (7)
11 Where a film actor may simulate a violent attack (5)
13 Water nymphs in a sad muddle (6)
15 Loved action and colour (6)
18 List of books found in a chapter (5)
19 He doesn't appreciate where the coal goes (7)
21 Rouse the fiery Celt, perhaps! (9)
23 Anger that is about right (3)
24 Worked as a masseur as required, we hear (7)
25 Artist when old retires south (5)

DOWN

1 It's used for making chips (7)
2 Book-keeper (9)
3 Give up interest in shares (5)
4 Islam's new religious book (6)
5 Editor's written about a drug (7)
6 Useful hint for players of pool (3)
7 Lamp, presumably portable (5)
12 New emigrants continuously on the move (9)
14 Indicated it is not in action (7)
16 Makes harder to fathom? (7)
17 I'd diet in order to be well groomed (6)
18 Verify the restaurant bill (5)
20 Ridiculed a conductor, we hear (5)
22 Female sheep quarters (3)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Heartening, 8 Album, 9 Clearer, 10 Leotard, 11 Users, 12 Tallow, 14 Bestow, 17 Extra, 19 Erosion, 21 Termini, 22 Dives, 23 Enterprise.

Down: 2 Embroil, 3 Rumba, 4 Escudo, 5 Ice cube, 6 Gorse, 7 Crosswinds, 8 Allotments, 13 On a diet, 15 Thieves, 16 Senior, 18 Throe, 20 Order.

THE ARYA VAIDYA PHARMACY (COIMBATORE) LTD

AVP

आत्मौपम्येन सर्वत्र समं पश्यति योऽर्जुन |
सुखं वा यदि वा दुःखं स योगी परमो मतः || 32||

He who, through the likeness of the Self, O Arjuna, sees equality everywhere , be it pleasure or pain, he is regarded as the highest Yogi.
(Bhagavad Gita VI : 32)

In the everlasting memory of
Padmashri Dr. P. R. Krishnakumar Ji

(23rd September 1951 - 16th September 2020)

13th DAY RITUALS WILL BE CONDUCTED TODAY

In reverence and rememberance
VARIER FAMILY, COIMBATORE &
All members of The Arya Vaidya Pharmacy (Coimbatore) Ltd
Group of Institutions

Water Resources Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi said one of the projects that will be taken up by the department is the linking of Bedti River in U-K district and Varada River which originates in Shivamogga and flows towards Haveri and Ballari districts.

The bandh has been called to protest farm bills and amendment to labour laws | EXPRESS

WHAT MAY NOT WORK

Autorickshaws, Cabs, Salons and Businesses, Malls, Hotels

WHAT WILL WORK

Hospitals, medical services, Medical stores, Food stores, KSRTC BMTC, Meat stalls, Metro Rail, Vegetable and fruit shops, ATMs, Petrol stations

ON BANDOBAST DUTY

- 16 DCPs
- 21 ACPs
- 105 PIs
- 177 SIs
- 327 ASIs
- 929 Head Constables
- 1,976 constables
- 200 Hoysalas
- 500 Home Guards
- 200 Hoysalas
- 47 KSRP platoons
- 24 CAR platoons
- 1 water jet
- 1 Quick Response Team

SECURITY FIREWALLS UP FOR TODAY'S BANDH

Complete shutdown, say KRRS; cabs, autos to stay off roads

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

WITH the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) and other farmers' organisations calling for a 6am to 6pm statewide bandh, as part of the all-India bandh on Monday, the government has deployed around 12,000 policemen on bandobast duty in Bengaluru.

The bandh has been called to protest farm bills, land reform ordinances and amendments to the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) and labour laws.

While KRRS president Kodihalli Chandrashekhar and Hasiru Sene expressed confidence that barring emergency medical services, all services, including autorickshaws, Metro Rail and trains, would remain suspended, the State government maintained that there would be no disruption.

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) too has maintained that all its services would ply as usual, and police have been deployed to ensure security to passengers in case protests take an ugly turn.

Tanveer Pasha, president of Ola and Uber Drivers and Owners Association, said, "We are supporting the bandh, and cab services will be off roads between 6am and 6pm."

Hotels and vegetable vendors are also said to have extended support for the bandh, and may close their business voluntarily. On Friday, farmers had blocked highways in parts of the state to register their opposition to the Karnataka government's Land Reforms ordinances, the amended APMC Act and labour bill.

Rallies will be held across the state, and protesters will block roads and highways on Monday, Chandrashekar said. Only medical and emergency services will be allowed, and we will ensure that Covid patients are not affected, he added.

Various unions, pro-Kannada and Dalit organisations have extended support for the bandh. Kurbur Shanthakumar, state president for National Kisan Mahasangha, iterated that the protests would be peaceful. Protesters plan to gather at Mysuru Bank Circle in Bengaluru, and a bike rally will start from Sumanahalli Ring Road and reach Town Hall. Pro-Kannada organisations are planning to stop rail services at KSR Railway Station. Employees of BEML, HAL, BHEL, ITI, BEL, ADE, LRDE, GTRE & CQAV will not participate in the bandh, Domlur Sreenivas Reddy, convener, Joint Action Front, said.

High security across city

In view of the bandh, Bengaluru police have made elaborate security arrangements across the city, with platoons deployed on bandobast duty, and special security for the airport and railway stations. It is said that those violating Covid safety norms will be booked under the NDMA Act and no one will be allowed to force shut shops and commercial establishments.

City Police Commissioner Kamal Pant said foolproof security has been ensured in the city to ensure there are no untoward incidents. Security has been beefed up in sensitive areas. "We are closely observing anti-social elements," he said.

VIEW-COUNTERVIEW

An opportunity for real reforms

A series of events in the past few months – promulgation of three ordinances for reforming agriculture markets in the country in June and passing of bills in the two houses of Parliament recently – have triggered widespread protests by farmers.

The major arguments against the bills are that they will pave way for 'corporatisation' of agriculture and result in withering away of MSP regime implemented through Agriculture Produce Market Committees. Both APMC system and MSP regime are beneficial only to a minor section of farmers. A large majority of smallholding farmers sell their produce to local traders, at terms favouring the latter, outside APMCs. According to the Shanta Kumar Committee, set up to make recommendations on restructuring of Food Corporation of India, less than 6 per cent of farmers have gained from public procurement of wheat and paddy.

Agriculture market needs reforms and it is long overdue. Giving MSP is not a sustainable strategy in the long run, particularly for non-food grains. The bills have come with several positive features, including removal of licence requirements for buyers, changes in market fees and levies for farmers, more flexibility to establish trade areas, facilities for inter-state trade and provisions for dispute settlement.

Unfortunately, the bills are gravely inadequate to bring about any radical changes in the lives of majority of farmers. They have missed the ground realities of poor enabling conditions which are prerequisites for making markets efficient. At best, the bills are likely to formalise already existing practises. Both the government and protesters have unfortunately missed addressing the real issues faced by majority of farmers.

Every crisis is an opportunity in disguise. Notwithstanding the deficiencies, the new bills offer a rare opportunity for the mandis to transform themselves into farmer-oriented institutions and stay relevant. Modernisation of mandis will create a win-win situation.

Policies must be put in place to build local capabilities of farmers to actively participate in the market, improve governance system and step up delivery of public goods. The present crisis offers an excellent opportunity for initiating some real reforms.

(Top) Gopal Naik, Prof, IIM-B and Gopi Sankar Gopikuttan, PhD scholar

With Farm Bills, farmers at risk

The three Farm Bills that the Modi government rammed through Parliament do not strengthen farmers' capabilities or bargaining power. Instead, they increase their vulnerability to exploitation by stronger, corporate interests.

There are three ways to raise farmer incomes: 1. Provide direct governmental support ; 2. Protect Minimum Support Prices, while providing the freedom to sell anywhere; 3. Invest in infrastructure for storage, value addition and marketing.

Rural India is in deep distress. Last year, NSS report revealed that people had cut down on food consumption, signalling rising poverty and worsening malnutrition. In 2018-19, agricultural growth fell to a 14-year low and farm-gate prices crashed to an 18-year low. This was before the pandemic! Post the unplanned lockdowns, things have worsened.

The Farm Bills are a precursor to dismantling the MSP regime. The government claims that MSPs will be protected, but it could have legislated that all purchases will have to be at MSP or above. The Modi Government hurriedly announced the MSP for the next rabi season much in advance, and as usual, termed it an historic increase. It is indeed historic because it is the lowest increase in wheat MSP in 10 years.

The Farm Bills practically resurrect the exploitative zamindari system. A "farming agreement" without adequate safeguards provides big private players an opportunity to exploit small and marginal farmers. The government has essentially left farmers alone without institutional support mechanisms, when they needed to be strengthened.

Creation of multiple markets close to farmers must precede opening up the market. Without such a competitive landscape, incentivising private players to procure outside APMCs reduces farmers' bargaining power. India, in recent years, has seen different industries/sectors becoming oligopolistic. It will be devastating if this were to happen to agriculture, which supports 62 crore Indians.

Agriculture needs a reform, but Farm Bills are a deform. Without securing the rights of vulnerable farmers, the government is pushing them into an abyss. Disruption for its own sake brings misery, as evidenced by demonetisation and GST. Empowering farmers through a range of interventions must precede throwing open agriculture to competition. Because these Farm Bills fail to do so, they must be rejected.

Prof M V Rajeev Gowda, former MP, chairman, Congress Research Dept

Bandh likely to disrupt normal life in twin districts

Chitradurga/Davangere: The bandh today is likely to disrupt normal life in Chitradurga and Davangere. Farmers' groups are up in arms against recent amendments to the Karnataka Land Act and APMC Act. Both the Central and state governments are protecting the interests of capitalists, said farmer leader Hucchavvanahalli Manjunath. "CM Yediyurappa is not willing to go against PM Modi's orders. We are left with no choice but to go ahead with the protests," he said. **ENS**

Rani Chennamma University postpones UG exams

Belagavi: Due to the bandh call, Rani Chennamma University has decided to postpone UG exams, which were to start today. Exams scheduled for Monday, have been rescheduled for Tuesday. There will be no changes to the timetable, said valuation registrar professor SM Hurakadli.

Farmers stage a protest at Rani Chennamma Circle in Belagavi on Sunday | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

Protest in Mysuru over ST Somashekar's comments

Mysuru: Cooperation Minister S T Somashekar said "real farmers are not the ones who are behind the protests". Claiming to have visited APMCs in all districts and talking to farmers there, Somashekar said he has not seen any opposition. Reacting to the minister's comments, a contingent of farmers, Dalits and other activists staged a flash protest in front of the new DC office. The police detained a few protesters, but released them later after they agreed to meet Somashekar. **ENS**

Raitha Sangha requests residents to support bandh

Madikeri: KRRS and major farmer associations of Kodagu district have requested residents to support the bandh by shutting their businesses from 6 am to 6 pm. Kodagu DC Annies K Joy said they have received information that farmers' associations are planning to block borders. "The Natural Disaster Management Act 2005 is in force and those staging protests must take prior permission. Covid norms must be followed. Road blocks and forceful closure of businesses is prohibited," the administration said. **ENS**

STRAWS IN THE WIND

Nod of a different kind

Did the bill get a nod? At least one MLC was nodding off! While the attendance of legislators was thin in both the Houses for the session that concluded on Saturday, some of those in the council couldn't help feeling sleepy as the time was extended to 'unearthly hours' -- beyond 12 midnight. g. To everyone's relief, the Chairman suddenly adjourned the House. When one MLC was asked by TNIE about what happened to the land reforms bill and if it had sailed through the Council, he said, "I do not know what happened." Clearly keeping legislators indoors beyond working hours does not help.

So to speak...

Women legislators in Karnataka, especially from opposition parties, are a miffed lot. First of all, a micro-minority in the Legislature, women MLAs have been seeing red over being denied the opportunity to question, debate, discuss and seek answers on par with their male colleagues in the House. "We are as capable and have strong opinions too but are barely given any time to raise issues. Why should we be confined to 'women-only' issues?" asked a woman legislator speaking for most of the women in the House. During the 6-day legislative assembly session, barely half-hour was given to some four-five women legislators to speak on issues while their male counterparts spoke for hours at length.

EXPRESS READ

Dinesh Gundu Rao tests Covid-positive

Bengaluru: One day after the Legislative Assembly session in Karnataka concluded, Congress MLA and former chief of the party's State Unit Dinesh Gundu Rao tested positive for Covid-19. Rao, recently elevated as AICC In-charge for Tamil Nadu, had met DMK leaders including MK Stalin last week in the run up to the state elections. On Sunday morning, Rao tweeted that his test results for Covid-19 had come back positive. "I have tested #Corona positive today. Therefore will be quarantining myself for 10 days. I request all my primary contacts to get themselves checked and take necessary precaution," he posted. Incidentally, his test results come on the day of his father and former Karnataka Chief Minister R Gundu Rao's birth anniversary. **ENS**

SESSION ENDS, OVER TO CABINET EXPANSION NOW

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

A highly-charged legislative session has just ended, but yet another challenge, of cabinet expansion and rejig, has cropped up before Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa. Lobbying for ministerial berths began almost immediately after the session and has aspirants taking a three-tiered approach. One set of aspirants is banking on Yediyurappa to make his promise good, the other set is confident of Central leadership pushing their cause as 'reward' for their work, while another set of leaders is holding talks with state BJP president Nalin Kumar Kateel. Aspirants are lobbying on all three fronts to push for an early cabinet expansion and rejig.

With the possibility of a rejig becoming more real, a few ministers in the Yediyurappa cabinet have been asked to consider resigning from their posts. Newly elevated National General Secretary C T Ravi, speaking to The New Indian Express, said that he will resign as soon as the Central leadership asks him to. "Party is my first priority. I am willing to resign as a minister to work for the party. I was asked if I need time to rethink but I have already conveyed that I will resign if asked to without hesitation," said Ravi, Minister for Tourism, Kannada and Culture.

Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa and Tourism Minister CT Ravi arrive at Vidhana Soudha for a tourism event on Sunday | SHRIRAM BN

A quiet meeting of some 11 MLAs and six MLCs at Water Resources Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi's residence on Saturday night with Kateel as the chief guest indicated Jarkiholi's push to be elevated as Deputy Chief Minister. He is already said to have held talks with Yediyurappa and Central leadership.

Yediyurappa has already met the Central leadership over cabinet expansion and said he was waiting for a nod from them to go ahead. The process had to be put on hold due to the session and now is back on track with rejig and expansion expected to be held in the first week of October.

Surya's plan for party: Build grassroots leaders

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

BANGALORE South MP Tejasvi Surya, freshly anointed National President of the BJP Yuva Morcha, says that he owes his position to the organisation, and PM Narendra Modi, who doesn't want young leaders to remain on "waiting lists".

Surya, touted as the party's 'poster boy', is the first person from Karnataka to occupy this position. "It is the blessing of all Kannadigas and every one of my constituents in Bengaluru," he said.

"I am here because PM Modiji doesn't want youngsters of today to be leaders of tomorrow, he wants to make them leaders today. Gone are the times when youngsters ended up on waiting lists. Earlier, some parties were afraid that if people without political background were given an opportunity, they would take the place of dynasts," he said.

Surya's priority is to build grassroots leadership across the country. His plan: "Identify those from the most modest and common backgrounds, the poorest and weakest sections, help them occupy leadership positions across the country and give strength to the organization."

On the BJP having a negligible footprint in some parts of India, he said this is a task for young leaders "because we are the youngest but fastest growing party. If everything was done by Deendayal Upadhyay and Syama Prasad Mookerjee, there would be nothing for Vajpayeeji and Advaniji to do, and if everything was done by them, there would be nothing for Modiji and Amit Shahji to do, and if everything is done by them, there will be nothing for us to do. We need to reach the unreached and conquer the unconquered".

Surya, already being compared to leaders like Jagannath Rao Joshi and Ananth Kumar, feels he doesn't deserve comparison with such tall leaders. "I am a small karyakartha and I have a lot to learn," he added. With Hindi turning into a flashpoint in the southern states, Surya says he is learning to make speeches in the national language. "I am speaking in Bihar on Monday, although I can converse fluently in Hindi I am now learning to make speeches," he said.

His USP? "I am an organisation person. I'm not the smartest nor the most talented, but the reason I am here and I am recognised is because of my organisation and my party."

Congress general secretary incharge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewalwa arrived in Bengaluru on Sunday, and Congressmen were seen queuing up at the Kumarakrupa Guest House on Sunday evening to wish him. Surjewala is expected to officially take charge soon, on a date in consultation with state leaders

HOME ISOLATION
KEY FACTOR IN COVID SPURT

Patients opting to stay home infect family, roam free; BBMP lax on checks

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

THE option of home isolation is causing concern among doctors. Many patients who opt for it are ending up infecting family members, leading to a higher caseload.

The government started home isolation to reduce the burden on hospitals, and with many asymptomatic patients occupying beds, critical patients were deprived of proper care. Covid Care Centres (CCCs) were opened by BBMP for asymptomatic patients, but some were shut after patients were given the home isolation option, with regular monitoring by doctors and nurses. Some private hospitals too started home isolation packages.

According to the BBMP bed portal website, 19,298 patients are in home isolation. However, these patients are unable to follow Covid norms, leaving other members of the family infected.

Dr Jagadish Hiremath, CEO, Ace Suhas Hospital, says they are coming across cases where a patient is advised home isolation, and the infection spreads to the rest of the family. "In a family of four, the other three get infected. Home isolation is supposed to ease the burden on hospitals, but is only adding more cases. When elderly people living in the house get infected, their condition could become severe," said Dr Hiremath.

Giving an example, he said a home isolated Covid patient came to hospital with an abscess in his thigh. "When this patient walked in, the ambulance crew informed us that he was Covid-positive, but he denied it. This patient would have spread the infection to many others. There is no proper system to monitor these patients," he added.

A health worker collects samples for Covid testing in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHRIRAM BN

DOCTORS' ADVICE

Patients in home isolation should

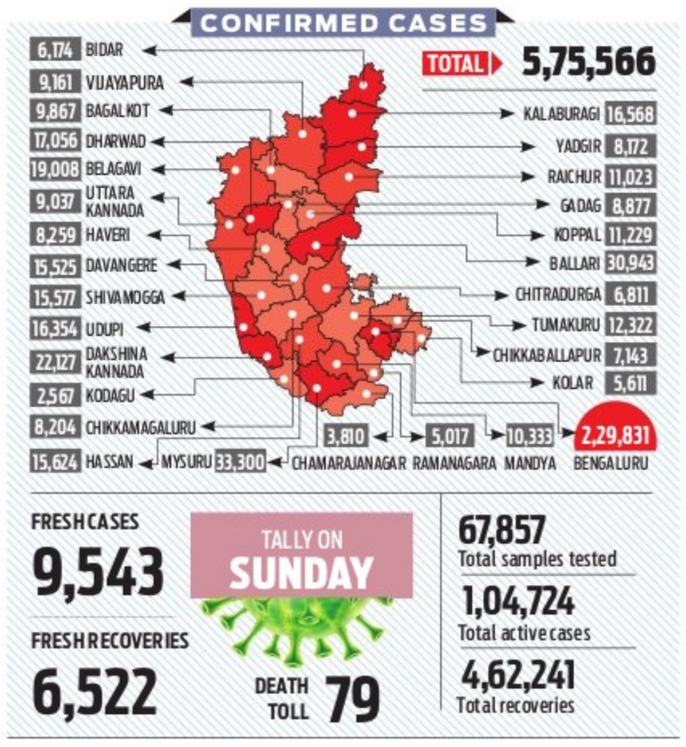
1. Stay in a separate, well-ventilated rooms
2. Have own thermometer, oximeter, medication
3. Be in touch with authorities and healthcare providers
4. Regularly monitor oxygen saturation level even if asymptomatic; if it slips below 93, immediately consult a doctor or go to hospital

Dr Suri Raju V, Managing Director, Regal Hospital, said, "Triage must be done of the patient's house, and every member should use separate rooms and washrooms as there is evidence that the coronavirus can be transmitted through faecal particles too. We've had patients in home isolation where a family of three was living in a one-bedroom house, increasing chances of all members getting infected. They also avoided going to a CCC as they had heard unpleasant things. The government should address the violation of home isolation, as patients are freely roaming around. We need to use technology to trace such violators and book them for endangering lives of other people."

However, a patient under home isolation alleged that BBMP is negligent. Suresh (name changed), aged 30, a resident of Indiranagar, was not contacted by BBMP when he tested positive, triage was not done, nor was house inspection carried out. "I live with my family in a two-bedroom house with only one toilet. BBMP didn't not contact me or advise me on measures I need to take. I knew about CCCs but consulted a private doctor. "

Munish Moudgil, in-charge of the State War Room, agreed that many home isolated patients are spreading the infection. "Those in home isolation are taking it easy, and not taking social distancing measures. Nor do they want to come to CCCs."

BBMP public health incharge Randeep D said BBMP has been carrying out house inspections. "Only if patients have separate rooms and toilets, are they are allowed to stay home. We are continuously monitoring this."



5-10 per cent relapses worry Mysuru doctors

AJITH M S @Mysuru

ABOUT 5-10 per cent of those who have recovered from Covid-19, are coming back to the government-run KR Hospital due to a relapse.

At a time when the cases are continuing to rise, the relapse where a person gets infected with the virus for the second time, and reactivation, where the virus that causes Covid-19 remains inactive in a patient and then surfaces later yet again, is increasingly becoming a matter of concern.

Speaking to *The New Indian Express*, Dr C P Nanjaraj, Dean and Director of Mysuru Medical College and Research Institute, said that they have been seeing 5-10 per cent of such cases of late. "We do not know how many cases are due to reactivation and how many due to a relapse," he said.

> We do not know how many cases are due to reactivation and how many due to a relapse
> Dr C P Nanjaraj, Dean and Director of Mysuru Medical College

Due to the several mutations of the virus, one's immune system is not able to detect the mutated forms, he said. "Otherwise, we would have had herd immunity by now," he added.

The post-Covid-19 complications are also on the rise and many patients, after recovering from the virus, are coming with lung fibrosis and even behavioural changes, he said.

"Under such circumstances, the prime defence is social distancing, wearing masks and using sanitizers," he added.

River-linking projects in Karnataka flowing smoothly: Jarkiholi

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

CERTAIN parts of Karnataka have witnessed droughts year on year and water tables have receded in these places to worrying and economically unsustainable levels. One of the suggested solutions on which the Karnataka Government seems to be making tangible moves, is to link rivers.

Water Resources Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi spoke to TNIE about this ambitious plan on Sunday. One of the projects that will be taken up is the linking of the Bedti river in Uttara Kannada district and the Varada river which originates in Sagar in Shivamogga district and flows towards Haveri and Ballari districts. Varada river flows east and joins the Tungabhadra river which eventually joins the river Krishna which flows towards Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Jarkiholi said the beneficiaries of this proposed interlinking will be Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. He said there are guidelines to take it up.He said, "Environmental studies will be taken up."

A central team had come some months earlier and taken the state's opinion. Karnataka has given its consent.

Another ambitious interlinking plan seeks to connect the Mahanadi river to the Godavari. It envisages a diversion of the surplus flow of the Mahanadi basin and the Godavari basin to the water-starved Krishna, Pennar and Cauvery rivers. "When Karnataka was approached to sign, we asked them for details of the state's share," Jarkoholi said.

The matter is under correspondence.

Jarkiholi explained, "We are planning to manage our water resources effectively by linking these rivers through a network of canals and reservoirs. It will help in recharging our groundwater and aquifers and even help in reducing floods."

The other project which has already started is the linking of Netravati and Cauvery rivers, Jarkiholi said. Netravati will be linked to the Vanivilas reservoir in Chitradurga and then connected to Hemavathi and Cauvery.

Experts explained that while continuous droughts and receding water tables have been a perennial problem in several parts of Karnataka, this could be one of the components of a larger solution being worked out.

Each one of these interlinking projects, once operational, will alleviate poverty and prevent drought across hundreds of dry stretches.

The GWR bogie wishing 'thank you' in various languages in message bubbles

UK salutes warriors in Kannada, Konkani

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Karwar

THE work of Covid warriors on the frontlines in India, especially Karnataka, is getting recognised and appreciated in countries as far away as the United Kingdom. One such measure of gratitude was shown by the Great Western Railway, a private train operator in England, which took an unique path to wish and thank Covid-19 warriors. The firm pasted large banner messages saying 'The nation says thank you' on its bogies in 116 languages, including Kannada, Telugu, Konkani and Hindi.

The design feature was the brainchild of three teenagers -- Sam Smith, Sam Moorey and Ned Thompson. "It is a special way to thank key workers for their incredible efforts during the Covid-19 pandemic," GWR authorities said. Intercity Express train hosts this livery where '*Dhanyavada*' (Kannada) and '*Deu Borem Korum*' (Konkani) have been scribbled.

CRIME PATROL

3 held for betting on IPL match

Bengaluru: Three men, who were allegedly receiving bets from people using a mobile phone application and organised betting over an Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket match, have been arrested by the CCB police. Police seized Rs 9.5 lakh in cash from the accused. Bhavesh Jain (38), Aravind Jain (40), both residents of Nagarthapet, and Vimal Jain (40), who lives near Binny Mill Circle, are the arrested. Police said the staff of the Special Enquiry squad of CCB received information that three men were receiving bets from people for an IPL match using a mobile application near a hotel in Gandhinagar. The police rushed to the spot and nabbed the trio. A case has been registered in Upparpet police station. ENS

His success might have led to his plight, says Virender Khanna's father

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE family of Virender Khanna, who has been arrested by the CCB police in the drug case involving Sandalwood celebrities, has dismissed the allegations levelled against the event planner by the police.

Khanna's father Prof Sri Ram Khanna, former Head and Dean, Faculty of Commerce and Business at the Delhi School of Economics, said that his son never organised private parties, or parties at farmhouses, as alleged by the police. "His business was to advertise and promote parties organised at hotels, resorts and pubs that had all required permissions to host parties. His role ended soon after the parties started. His company is registered, and regular GST and Income Tax payments were done," Ram Khanna said.

Starting his career as an event organiser in 2007, Virender, a computer engineer graduate, emerged as a leading party organiser in the city. "On average, he organised two parties every week. Though I do not have any proof, I apprehend that his huge success in the business has led to his plight today. He had faced troubles from his business rivals and he used to tell me that they had tried to hinder his efforts to organise events. I suspect that the police are biased towards my son based on theories floated by his rivals," Ram Khanna alleged.

Further, he claimed that the police had forced accused RTO clerk Ravishankar to give a statement that his son was also involved. "When I had met my son recently, I asked him whether he knew any of the accused and he had said no. He said that Ravishankar himself had told him that the police had forced him to give a statement against him (Virender). I am surprised why the police have framed my son in the case?" Ram Khanna wondered.

He also clarified that the six-grams of ganja seized from his son's shared apartment did not belong to the latter. "Two others were staying in the shared apartment. The ganja seized was found in another room, where a French woman stayed. We have provided the necessary documents to the police," Ram Khanna said, adding that his son neither used nor supplied drugs and no contraband was seized from his possession.

Virender Khanna

4 arrested, 1.25kg ganja seized in Hubballi

Hubballi: The Bendigeri police have arrested four drug peddlers and seized 1.25 kg of marijuana (ganja) in Hubballi. Acting on a tip-off, the police arrested Avinash Kanjarbat, Gousuddin Talikote, Shivakumar Tumakur and Sameerulla Bengaluru on Saturday. All four are from the city. The police also seized Rs 1,200 in cash. ENS

One more drug peddler arrested

Mangaluru: The Central Crime Branch(CCB) police arrested one more drug peddler in Mangaluru on Sunday and seized banned contraband from him. With this, the total number of arrests in the drugs case has risen to five. Mohammed Shakir (35), a resident of Surinje in Surathkal, was arrested based on information provided by dancer-choreographer Kishore Aman Shetty (30) who was arrested earlier. The four arrested earlier are Kishore, choreographer Tarunraj (25), Aqueel Nausheel (28) and a woman named Aska. According to police sources, Shakir used to source drugs from Mumbai and sell them to Kishore and others. In connection with the same case, Kannada TV host Anushree was questioned by the CCB police on Saturday for almost four hours. ENS

Miscreants desecrate Periyar bust in TN

Tiruchy: A bust of Dravidian leader and rationalist 'Periyar' EV Ramasamy was desecrated by miscreants at Inamkulathur village in Tiruchy district in the wee hours of Sunday. This comes hardly three weeks after a bust of the reformist leader was desecrated in Ariyalur district, on September 3. A similar incident had occurred in Coimbatore in July. The miscreants poured saffron paint over the bust, which stood at the Periyar Memorial of Samathuvapuram in the village, and garlanded it with slippers. The Manikandam police rushed to the spot and cleaned up the bust with the help of some residents. Tiruchy SP Jayachandran said they have formed three special teams to investigate the matter. With the news going viral in social media, several supporters of Periyar and cadres of various political outfits gathered at Inamkulathur and staged a roadblock for around 30 minutes. ENS

Kerala seeing 2nd Covid wave: Shailaja

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @T'Puram

KERALA is witnessing a second wave of Covid spread which would be more decisive for the state on several counts, Health Minister K K Shailaja has said.

Predicting the likelihood of more deaths in the state during the second wave due to the prevalence of lifestyle diseases, Shailaja also said the state may have to go for complete lockdown if people do not cooperate with authorities (by following guidelines).

"Though the state could handle the pandemic outbreak well in the beginning, things took a turn for the worse when Covid guidelines were thrown to the winds by a section of people," she alleged. "The state has been trying its best to avoid a total lockdown. However, if people are not ready to cooperate with authorities, we will have to go for statewide lockdown again," she said.

The state's Covid death toll is 656 which is 0.39 per cent of total cases. Though most Covid patients were aged between 20 and 40, around 72 per cent of those who died of Covid were aged above 60.

This shows Kerala will face a crisis if Covid cases increase, as its high population density and huge elderly population with lifestyle diseases are really a challenge, she said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, the undersigned advocate on behalf of my client **Sowbhagya** that his mother namely **Sanjeevamma W/o. Late Karihanumaiah** died on 25/09/2018 at Hathukuntepalya Village, Thyamagondlu Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. If any Dispute regarding the same before the Civil Judge at Nelamangala **and date of hearing on 15/10/2020, at 11-00 A.M. in C.Misc. No. 224/2020.**

By Order of the Court, Sd/- Chief Ministerial Officer Court of the Civil Judge (Jr. Division) & JMFC Court, Nelamangala

Sri REVANNA, Advocate, Nelamangala

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) PROMILA DEVI, W/o Hanuman Singh, residing at No. SMQ 63/2, Air Force Camp, Murugeshpalya, Wind Tunnel Road, Bangalore-560017, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) PROMILA DEVI** to **(NEW NAME) PROMILA YADAV** vide affidavit Dated 23/09/2020 sworn before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) PRIYANSHI GARG W/o Mahesh Narayanappa Ramesha, No. 7, Dwaraka, 6th Main, Narayanappa Block, R.T Nagar, 2nd Block, Bangalore - 560 032 have changed my name to **(NEW NAME) PRIYANSHI MAHESH** vide affidavit dated 25.09.2020 sworn before Notary T.C. Thimmaraja, Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, the undersigned advocate on behalf of my client **Meenakshi M.S.** that his Grand Father (Mother Father) namely **D. Lakkanna S/o. Dasappa** was died on 03/07/1999 at Subramanyanagara, Gundenahalli Dakale, Thyamagondlu Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. If any Dispute regarding the same before the Civil Judge at Nelamangala **and date of hearing on 15/10/2020, at 11-00 A.M. in C.Misc. No. 225/2020.**

By Order of the Court, Sd/- Chief Ministerial Officer Court of the Civil Judge (Jr. Division) & JMFC Court, Nelamangala

Sri REVANNA, Advocate, Nelamangala

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client Sri.B.R.Ranganath intends to purchase converted land bearing Survey No 95, Ananjanapura Village, Uttarahalli-1 Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk measuring 2 Acres, from Sri.G.Suresh S/o. late Govindaiah, Sri.Nagaraju S/o. Late Govindaiah and Sri.Muniraju S/o. Late Govindaiah.

If any person whomsoever has any claim/interest over the aforesaid property shall contact me in writing within 15 days from today, any claims thereafter shall not be entertained and will be considered as waived off.

Sd/- B. Pramod, Advocate, No. 44, Shivakrupa, 2nd Cross, Malleswaram, Bengaluru-560003.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our clients are the owners of property bearing Vacant Site No. 1708, situated at Banashankari 6th Stage, 5th Block, Bangalore, formed by-Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore and bounded on : **Measuring** East to West : 15-00 (Fifteen) Mtrs., North to South 24.00 (Twenty Four) Mtrs., Totally measuring 360-00 Square Mtrs (Correct Allotment letter bearing **No.BDA/DS-2/1708/BLK-V/BSK6/2002-2003 dated 01 Oct 2002)**

Our clients acquired the schedule property from Sri.V.S. PARTHASARATHY, by virtue of Absolute sale deed registered as document No. BSK-1-05287/2009-10 CD. No. BSKD56, Book-1, dated 05-12-2009, registered in the office of the Senior Sub Registrar Banashankari Bangalore, in the absolute sale deed page No.2, 2nd paragraph allotment letter No.BDA/ADMN/DS-2/1708/V-BLK/BSK 6th Stage/2002-03, dated 30-09-2002, **instead of No.BDA/DS-2/1708/BLK-V/BSK6/2002-2003 dated 01 Oct 2002** and date of registration in the above said absolute sale deed wrongly mentioned as 18-11-2003 instead of 10-11-2003.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing Vacant Site No. 1708, situated at Banashankari 6th Stage, 5th Block, Bangalore, formed by Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore **Measuring** East to West : 15-00 (Fifteen) Mtrs., North to South 24.00 (Twenty Four) Mtrs., Totally measuring 360-00 Square Meters And bounded on the ; East by : Site No. 1707, West by : Site No. 1709, North by : Road South by : Site No. 1691 and 1692.

SHIVANNA, Advocate
No.24, 12th Main Road, 4th Block East, Jayanagar, (Near Sub-Registrar Office), BANGALORE-560 011. Ph: (M) 9901507257

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the General public that my clients **Sri. Thimmegowda, Sri. Narayana, Smt. Venkamma @ Venkatamma, Smt Shanthamma, Smt Kanthamma and Smt. Laxmamma**, all are residents of Nagashetty halli, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, have hereby revokes, annuals, withdrawn and cancel the General Power Attorney dated 06-01-1997 executed by them in favour of Sri. Krishnappa S/o late Chennappa, Nagashetty Halli, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk.

Henceforth, said Sri Krishnappa, is not entitled to act or represent my clients. If any act or deeds done by in respect properties mentioned in the schedule, based on the aforesaid General Power Attorney or any documents shall not binding on my clients, in any manner. In spite of this notice if any body deals with the schedule properties they will be doing so at their own risk and cost and same will not binds on my clients in any manner and such person will not get any right through said alleged transaction.

SCHEDULE 'A'

Site bearing No. 1, formed in Sy No. 34/1C (34/1) and Sy.No. 36/4 denoted in the sketch annexed situated at Nagashettyhalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore admeasuring East to West: 60 feet and North to South : 35 feet, bounded on : East by : Road ; West by : Vacant land left to Temple, North by : Road and South by : Passage /access to the Temple.

SCHEDULE 'B'

Site bearing No. 11, formed in Sy No. 34/1C (34/1) and Sy.No. 36/4 denoted in the sketch annexed situated at Nagashettyhalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore ad measuring East to West: 60 feet and North to South : 40 feet. bounded on: East by : Temple Property, West by : Road, North by : Site No. 12, fallen to the share of Nanjundappa South by : Site No.10, fallen to the share of V Ramaiah.

SCHEDULE 'C'

Site bearing No. 15, formed in Sy No. 34/1C(34/1) and Sy.No. 36/4 denoted in the sketch annexed situated at Nagashettyhalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore admeasuring East to West: 20 feet and North to South: 32 feet, bounded on: East by: Site No.16, fallen to the share of V Ramaiah, West by Site No. 14 fallen to the share of Angadi Krishnappa, North by: Road and South by Temple property.

Date :26-09-2020
Place Bengaluru

[B.P.Mahendra] Advocate
No.54/1, 24th Main, Sector-2, HSR Layout, Parangeipalya, Bengaluru

EDITORIAL

Frontal engagements of large formations of forces at the strategic and operational level are gradually becoming a thing of the past. Long-distance, contactless actions against the enemy are becoming the main means of achieving combat and operational goals

Valery Gerasimov

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

NEED INCLUSIVE DECISION-MAKING IN JAMMU & KASHMIR

The killing of lawyer-activist Babar Qadri in the heart of downtown Srinagar has eerie parallels with the killing of prominent journalist Shujaat Bukhari two years ago. Both were shot as they were leaving their premises, both were fatally attacked in the evening and in both instances, the militants used motorcycles as their getaway vehicle. Qadri and Bukhari were also ideologically akin. They raised their voice against militancy, Qadri in TV debates where he was a regular and Bukhari through the newspaper he edited. Through their killing, the militants have sent a message loud and clear, that they will silence all voices against them.

The assassination of Qadri should serve as a wake-up call for the Centre. While innocent lives are lost at regular intervals, the government always hides behind inanimate statistics and numbers to brush its failings under the carpet. Just earlier this month, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy told Rajya Sabha that terrorist incidents had decreased by 53% and stone throwing cases by 56% between 5 August 2019 and 31 August 2020 as compared to the same period in 2018-19 before the reading down of Article 370. Clearly, such an attempt at denial with mundane numbers glosses over the ground reality in the Kashmir Valley, which is of fear, alienation and a feeling of subjugation.

J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha is known to enjoy the trust of both PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. He must try and ensure inclusive representation of the youth in decision-making. Sinha must also try and increase the number of locals in key government positions. Currently, of the 20 district collectors, 17 belong to the state. But the same is not the case with district police chiefs as locals make up less than half of the total SSPs. Increasing local representation could enhance trust levels with the security apparatus, which is generally not liked by the public. It is perhaps also time to nurture a new political leadership, free of the discredited Abdullahs and Muftis who have only feathered their own nests.

IBC SUSPENSION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

Corporate borrowers were once again saved by the bell. On Thursday, the government extended the suspension of bankruptcy proceedings by three more months till December 24, just hours before the relaxation was about to lapse. It had first suspended the corporate insolvency resolution process under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) in June. Via an Ordinance, Section 10A was inserted, staying operations of Sections 7, 9 and 10 and in effect barring insolvency proceedings for debt defaults arising on or after 25 March 2020 for six months, extendable up to a maximum of one year. With Thursday's relief, all corporate defaults between March 25 and December 24 are knocked permanently out of the IBC radar.

Predictably, it didn't enthuse creditors and critics, who believe that such a blanket prohibition incentivises wilful defaults favouring permanent protection. Besides, they argue, the move eliminates IBC's inherent rationale of creditor-in-the-saddle approach in lieu of debtor-in-control regime. That's because Sections 7 and 9 allow financial and operational creditors respectively to initiate the resolution process, while Section 10 facilitates voluntary insolvency by corporates. With all three now suspended, concerns were raised regarding unintended consequences and whether it deprives users of the very benefits of IBC.

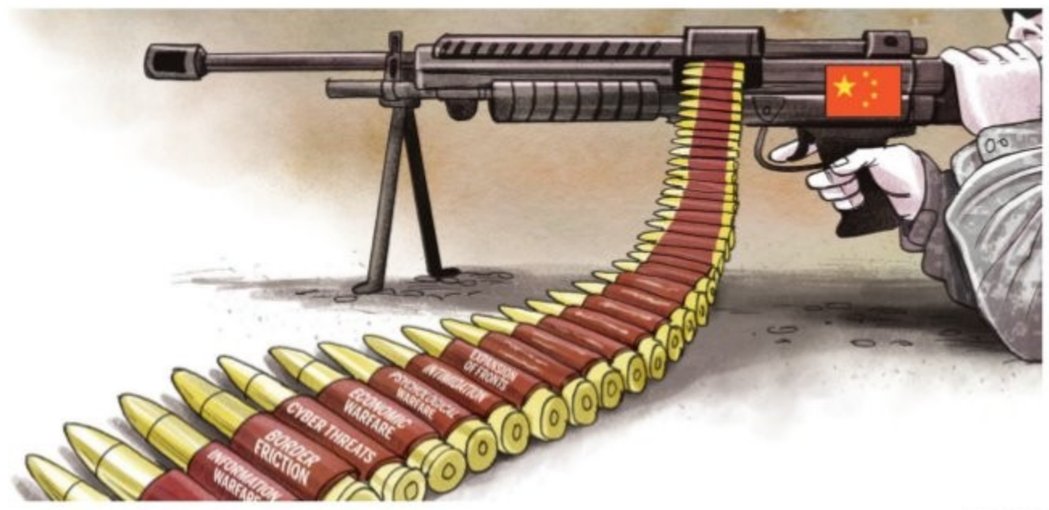
Clearly, the suspension prevents two things—garage sale of companies driven by pandemic-led low valuations and NCLTs from getting choked with cases. Globally too, bankruptcies are bound to rise, perhaps compelling the government towards an all-hands-to-the-pump approach. In any case, creditors can initiate action against defaulters via debt recovery tribunals, civil courts and even the Sarfaesi Act. Moreover, insolvency proceedings against personal guarantors aren't suspended, so banks can invoke securities in cases they deem fit to avoid accumulation of living-dead borrowers, once dominant on bank balance sheets leading to the recent NPA crisis. Importantly, banks must continue risk-based supervisory processes to ensure timely recognition of risks. The IBC's objective is to avoid problems in extreme downturns of a business cycle, but in its attempt to salvage value in loan assets, the government should avoid exacerbating systemic trouble.

What is Beijing attempting to do if it is not intending to capture territory? The happenings at the LAC could be to obfuscate its activities in other domains

IS LADAKH PART OF CHINA'S HYBRID WAR AGAINST INDIA?

LT GEN SYED ATA HASNAIN (RETD)

Former Commander, Srinagar-based 15 Corps. Now Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir



AMIT BANDRE

With the assessment of China's intent in Ladakh still up for grabs, there is no harm in letting imagination go berserk but rationally. Moving PLA troops exercising in depth to the LAC to transgress at various friction points, and staying put at some and pulling back from others has long been the PLA's salami-slicing strategy. It is clear that China concentrated insufficient troops forward to make any deep penetrations across the LAC. Resorting to conventional operations in Ladakh without sufficient high-quality foot infantry would never make military sense. Armour and mechanised infantry along with artillery and missiles make a fine combination in the valleys and high-altitude plains; they project serious intent through visibility. Yet to hold ground or evict hardy Indian Infantry from the dominating heights, it needs the special guile and skills of foot infantry. The PLA just did not bring up enough of it. Perhaps it expected to whistle up more troops should the Indian Army respond in an unexpectedly offensive way. The PLA also betrayed an element of its intent of not going beyond a threshold when it did not make haste to occupy the heights of Chushul Bowl before its extremely delayed attempt on 29 August 2020, leading to the Indian occupation of the Kailash Range. The quantum and quality of troops sent to seek eviction of Indian troops at Richen La seemed to betray a lack of intent to press home any operation; the optics of carrying improvised weapons was to psychologically message a repeat of the Galwan incident and not execute a tactical action.

So what is China attempting to do if it is not intending to capture territory or aggressively assert its claim lines beyond a point? Why is it constantly in touch with us through military talks? What's behind its refusal to disengage and return its troops to the depth, at least for the winter? It appears reasonably certain that China does not wish to risk fighting a war without certainty of its outcome. A cursory examination of ongoing conflicts and some others in the recent past appears to indicate the rise of belief in Russia's strategy towards achieving its ends. Russia chose to push back against the US and NATO in Ukraine to limit their eastward march to its periphery, not through conventional means of warfighting, but by hybrid means. Simultaneously it seriously interfered in the US political system through proxies, bringing into effect the first real experiment of grey zone warfare. Limited military pushback took place at the fringes in Ukraine to paralyse the local forces and take control. The unprecedented, very efficiently coordinated actions of Russian soldiers, pro-Russian local separatists, the Russian media and diplomacy were described by many experts as an example of hybrid warfare. So why would China wish to execute such hybrid warfare against India if it chose to borrow the Russian ideas?

For all the friendly engagement with the Indian government and the personal rapport that Xi Jinping has with the Indian PM, there was something that made China uncomfortable. I felt that it was the increasing supremely confident attitude of India, not only related to its emerging status in the world but also to its security perceptions. A couple of recent milestones contributed to it. Prime among them was the response against Pakistan's sponsored proxy war events in 2016 and 2019; I refer to the triggered surgical strikes and the Balakot air strike. The world largely supported the Indian response and it was repeated with the abrogation of special constitutional provisions for Jammu & Kashmir in August 2019. In the middle of all this came the 72-days-long Doklam stand-off (2017) that perceptually went India's way without a shot fired. None of this gave confidence to the Chinese. Indian pushback against the BRI did not make China happy either. When Indian political leaders and officials started publicly speaking about the return to Indian control of the territory of Gilgit-Baltistan and PoK through which the CPEC runs, the Chinese probably felt that a threshold situation had been reached. Not acting could give wrong signals of China's tolerance and encourage many other nations on its periphery to be emboldened against Beijing's strategic interests. In all probability, China chose to employ a calibrated hybrid war against India rather than exercise any conventional option. Hybrid war allows a protagonist to test the waters and calibrate further responses or draw back without burning its fingers. Hybridity here is not of the J&K variety. It involves border friction, intimidation, cyber threats, expansion of fronts and forcing of costly mobilisation, posturing, projection, economic warfare, and lots of ways of modern-day information and psychological warfare for which collusion with Pakistan was possible. The pandemic appeared a good time to execute this strategy. The PLA came prepared for LAC engagements and not a campaign-style conventional effort to capture objectives in depth. Its strength betrayed its operational intent. In jumping into conventional war against tried and tested Indian mountain troops, the PLA rightly felt it could not obtain positive outcomes.

> Hybridity here is not of the J&K variety. It involves border friction, intimidation, economic warfare, cyber threats, expansion of fronts, forcing of costly mobilisation, and modern-day information and psychological warfare

Hybridity seems added in layers of activities that are slowly unravelling. Instances of money laundering and 'hawala' originating from Beijing are on the rise. Interference in the succession of the Dalai Lama through hawala deals has also been reported. Thus progressive economic warfare as the start point, with enhancement in defence expenditure due to part mobilisation and infrastructure development on fast-track mode, along with potential instigation and financing of some insurgent groups is adequate to initiate hybrid warfare—with prime focus on the happenings at the LAC to obfuscate the activities in other domains. This, accompanied by a sponsored campaign to activate Nepal's anti-India sentiment and hoping to repeat it once again in other nations on the periphery, is enough to force India on the back foot. The large-scale collection of data about Indian personalities, companies, businesses and political parties, and the well-developed cyber capability will help round off the hybrid effort. The manifestation of all this will most markedly be felt in the military domain where the discomfort of prolonged winter deployment in improvised habitat and tension at the front lines will keep the Indian nation obsessed while China seeks its next opportunities elsewhere, in another domain. Countering hybrid war is never easy due to obfuscation of intent. The adage 'all of government approach' holds true but before that, it needs an analysis to establish the aim and select the means. More on that later even as Indian strategic analysts hopefully address this deduction.

(atahasnain@gmail.com)

LET'S BUILD AN INFORMED DEMOCRACY

ANURAG TIWARY

Student of National Law University, Visakhapatnam

ABHINAV NARAYAN JHA

Student of Law, Amity University

Earlier this month, Nityanand Rai, the MoS (Home), in response to a question by an opposition MP in Lok Sabha, said: "The exodus of a large number of migrant workers was triggered by fake news." Information deficiency, admittedly, led to the brutal death of many migrants on their way back home. How many of them died is still unknown. Don't ask for the numbers—it isn't available with the government. At least, that's what they say!

Meanwhile, amidst the pandemic, UNESCO has announced 'Access to information in times of crisis' as the theme for this year's International Day for Universal Access to Information on September 28. The right to seek, receive and impart information is an International Human Rights Principle that has been recognised by the Supreme Court in PUCL v. UoI (2004).

However, with Covid-19 at its peak, reliable, accurate, and unbiased information dissemination is under an all-new threat and facing a big challenge that could change the way we communicate, deliberate and access information forever. Our autonomy in making informed choices is under threat. The pandemic and the government's handling of it normalises discrimination, loss of accountability and erosion of democratic norms. It reasserts rigid societal mindsets and feeds into existing vulnerabilities.

The digital divide: Devika, a Class 9 Dalit student from Kerala, committed suicide by setting herself on fire for not being able to attend online classes. She did not have a smartphone. Devika had won the Ayyankali Scholarship for her outstanding academic performance last year. This year was traumatic for her entire family. Her father has had no employment since the lockdown was imposed.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITA), a specialised agency of the UN, reported last year that only 51.71% of people use the internet in India. This digital divide is aggravated by intersectional issues of caste-based and gender-based discrimination against students like Devika. This has led to a lack of access to academic information and is therefore a violation of their Right to Equality under the Constitution. The government's attempt at using one universal policy framework for differently placed students has made their worst nightmares come true.

With no alternative framework for making relevant and reliable information accessible to such communities, they remain in the dark. While they lose their lives, the country seems to exult in glory for the supposed success of Digital India.

Ensuring financial accountability: An informed citizenry acts as the most effective oversight body to keep account of the government's spending of public money. Such an oversight body has never been more important than now, when thousands of crores of public money are being utilised by governments across states in the name of a public health emergency. However, it is evident that a lack of transparency in government spending has become the new normal. The Centre's stand on not releasing the details of the PM-CARES fund is one recent example.

The disruption in the economy has led to governments diverting public money from funds that were initially made for different purposes. This is happening without any information to the people for whom the funds were constituted. Unless they are informed and taken into confidence, actual consensus cannot be said to have been achieved. MP-LADS funds have been diverted for Covid-related expenditures. District Mineral Foundation Funds that were set up for the interest and benefit of persons and areas affected by mining-related operations have also been diverted. The list is long.

> A lack of transparency in government spending has become the new normal. Access to information shouldn't be a privilege, but the norm

This doesn't just normalise the state's inability to grant money to cater for basic healthcare amenities that it is duty-bound to provide during such a crisis, it also shows a failure in good 'information governance', where consensus is achieved after unequivocal and dispassionate information is presented to the people on time.

A deliberative democracy: The passing of three farm Bills in the Rajya Sabha without any deliberation, overriding parliamentary procedures of 'Debate, Discourse and Deliberate', especially when the Bill was stated to be "a watershed moment in Indian Agriculture History" by the PM himself, shows how the institutions of the state are reticent in disseminating information that unsettles them. People deserve to be informed what every stakeholder thinks about the legislation and then make an informed political choice. The task of constructive criticism in a democracy is done by the opposition. However, if debates are curtailed, free flow of information doesn't take place.

On the other hand, 'selective reporting' of critical information by public officials, especially in matters of health and national security, leads to over- or under-estimation of effects. Despite this, the government has been utterly ambiguous on the LAC Indo-China standoff. Meanwhile, state governments have been allegedly forging Covid numbers.

Limiting criticism by curbing information dissemination leads to a trust deficit in the government and reflects a void in leadership. It is for governments to counter such a situation by providing surplus information during a crisis.

So, has Covid-19 given unimaginable power to the state to control what information reaches us and what doesn't? Are there political and structural barriers to access information because of the lack of information literacy, political accountability and intersectional issues of inequality within our society?

There isn't a direct answer to these questions. However, one thing is clear: Access to information shouldn't be a privilege, but the norm. Governments need to identify this as their obligation. NDA should not stand for 'No Data Available' anymore. This year, on the International Day for Universal Access to Information, let's promise to build a nation where there is relevant, accessible and accurate information for everyone.

(anuragtiwary66@gmail.com, narayanabhinav14@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Yes, it will outlive us all

A singer's passing away is more painful than that of a matinee idol since music is part and parcel of our very existence. (*SPB's voice will outlive us all*, Sep 26.) Death comes to even the best, only Balu sir's happened sooner than we would have liked. The only consolation is he has left behind his voice for us in hundreds of songs. Yes, his voice will outlive us all.
Elizabeth Koshy, Pathanamthitta

Touching tribute

The editorial on SPB is a touching tribute to the legendary singer and wonderful human being.
C Vijaya Kumar, Bengaluru

Thank you, SPB sir

His name was a three-letter mantra. Nobody's smile had such an impact. Thank you, SPB sir. We will miss you.
Tejes Krishnasamy, email

The singer's humility

Around 25 years ago, I attended a concert by SPB. After a few songs, when SPB just started the popular number *Aval Oru Navarasa Naadagam*, he saw P B Sreenivas take his seat. Announcing to the audience humbly that he would continue after a few minutes, SPB came down and touched the legend's feet. SPB was immensely popular by then and this showed his humility.
R Sivakumar, Chennai

Security to minorities

The report that Christian families were threatened and asked to leave a Chhattisgarh village by locals who wanted them to return to the tribal fold is shocking. The government has to provide ample security to religious minorities.
Thomas K M, Muvattupuzha

Global warming threat

As mentioned in *Improving Hyderabad's drain infrastructure* (Sep 24), global warming appears to have led to unpredictable and unprecedented heavy rainfall. The 2015 Tamil Nadu flooding is a stark reminder of the fury of nature.
K Jayanthi, Chennai

Pay ASHA workers more

ASHA workers in Karnataka, who help in tracing contacts of Covid patients apart from regular activities, need a better salary. They are frontline warriors and nearly 20 such workers have died across India due to Covid.
V N Subramanyam, Bengaluru

Should prompt a rethink

A Muslim youngster from Bihar who didn't like Narendra Modi due to the 2002 riots has now became a fan of the PM and even authored a book on him. This should prompt a rethink among those who harbour communal hatred against Modi.
Geetha B K, Mangaluru

Religious harmony in Kerala

This is with reference to the recent interview with the CPM Kerala state secretary. The state is proud of its religious harmony that is present irrespective of LDF/UDF rule. With the recent findings, it might be true to say that with the Left in power, extremists appear to use this state as their hideout.
E Ravi Varma Raja, Ennakkad

Sales not only measure

Sales is the yardstick of any business but for books, if it is the only measure, it will jeopardise quality. (*It's time publishers read some innovation books, Sep 24*)
Vinod Narayanan, Thiruvananthapuram

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **G S Vasu**

Resident Editor (Karnataka) : **Santwana Bhattacharya*** Published by **R K Jhunjhunwala** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099. **Bengaluru.** Vol. 56, No. 232 RNI Reg. No. 3457/1960. Phone: 080-22866893, Fax: 080-22866617. * Responsible for selection of News under the PRB Act. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

TWEETS OF THE DAY

Sharad Pawar @PawarSpeaks
Congratulations to the Badals in Punjab for pulling out of the NDA in protest against farms Bills. Thanks for firmly standing with the farmers

Rahul Gandhi @rahulgandhi
How long will India wait for the government's answer? ... vaccine strategy should have been the 'Mann ki baat' today

Derek O'Brien @derekobrienmp
We support Akali Dal's stand with farmers. Fighting for farmers is part of TMC's DNA. We oppose #FarmBills2020 as they endanger states' role, MSP, PDS and procurement

'Indians far from herd immunity, says survey'

ICMR is actively researching on reports of reinfection, says minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE ICMR's second sero-survey shows that Indian population is still far from achieving herd immunity against coronavirus infection, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Sunday while underlining the need for following Covid appropriate behaviour.

He also stressed that masks be worn even in places of worship. During an interaction with his social media followers, the minister said the ICMR is actively researching on reports of Covid-19 reinfection and although the number of such cases is negligible at this moment, the government is fully seized of the importance of the matter, the health ministry said in a statement.

He cautioned that the sero-survey report should not create a sense of complacency among the people. The first sero-survey of May 2020 had revealed that the nationwide prevalence of novel coronavirus infection was only 0.73 per cent.

> **Even the soon to be released 2nd sero-survey indicates we are far from achieving herd immunity which necessitates that we should continue to follow Covid protocols**
> Harsh Vardhan, Health Minister

"Even the soon to be released second sero-survey indications are that we are far from having achieved any kind of herd immunity which necessitates that all of us should continue following Covid appropriate behaviour," Vardhan said in response to the queries posed by his social media followers on *'Sunday Samvad'* platform.

The health minister also dispelled fears regarding the phased opening of schools, and advised on proper protocol to be followed while visiting salons and hair spas, the ministry said. He asked everyone to always raise awareness regarding Covid-19 appropriate behavior which he himself does by stopping his car and asking non-compliant people to wear their masks, the statement said. He re-emphasized on the need for wearing masks even in places of worship.

"The pandemic can only be fought when the government and society work in tandem," he was quoted as saying in the statement. On the wide usage of plasma therapy and Remdesivir drug, Vardhan said the government has issued regular advisories. *With PTI inputs*

BILATERAL TIES

Modi summit with Denmark PM today

PUSHKAR BANAKAR @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will hold a virtual bilateral meeting with his Danish counterpart Mette Frederiksen on Monday during which Denmark is likely to join the International Solar Alliance.

The meeting will be Modi's first standalone virtual summit with any leader from Europe. "India-Denmark bilateral relations are marked by regular high-level exchanges and are based on historical links, common democratic traditions and shared desire for regional, as well as international peace and stability," a statement from the ministry of external affairs said. According to the statement, two key outcomes of the meeting would be signing of an MoU between the two countries on intellectual property cooperation and Denmark joining the ISA.

Trade between India and Denmark has grown in 2019.

PM: Farmers basis of Atmanirbhar Bharat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

AMID protests by a section of farmers against farm reform bills, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on Sunday said that the agricultural sector of the country and farmers are the very basis of *Atmanirbhar Bharat* and that the farm Bills ensures freedom to farmers to sell their produce at higher prices.

During his monthly radio address 'Mann ki Baat', Prime Minister said, "In this difficult period of Corona, our agricultural sector, our farmers are a living testimony to this. Even in this time of crisis, the agricultural sector of our country has again shown its resilience."

"Friends, the agricultural sector of the country, our farmers, villages are the very basis of Atmanirbhar Bharat, a self-reliant India. If they remain strong then the foundation of *Atmanirbhar Bharat* will remain strong," he said.

His remarks come at a time when farmers in many parts of the country, specifically Haryana and Punjab, have been sitting in protest against the three farm bills passed by the parliament.

This has made NDA's oldest ally Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) severing ties with the government while the centre has insisted that the bills will benefit the farmers. The opposition has been targeting the ruling party over the bills alleging it is a move to allow big corporate companies exploiting small and marginal farmers of the country.

Talking about reforms in agriculture sectors, the PM said that in the recent past, these areas have liberated themselves from many restrictions and tried to break free from many myths.

"In present-times, the more modern alternatives we offer for agriculture, the more it will progress with newer innovations and techniques," he added.

BJP'S BIG BROTHERLINESS BEHIND ALLY PROBLEM?

PUSHKAR BANAKAR, SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI, HARPREET BAJWA & MUKESH RANJAN
@ Delhi/Mumbai/Chandigarh/Ranchi

WITH the Shiromani Akali Dal exiting the NDA over the farm Bills, the BJP has lost at least four allies in past two years. The first to quit the NDA was the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in 2018 followed by the Shiv Sena and the All-Jharkhand Students' Union (AJSU) last year. All the three exits were bitter, with each of them blaming the BJP of backstabbing and not following the coalition dharma.

So why is the BJP steadily losing friends, some of them decades-old partners?

In the maze of charges and counter-charges following the parting of ways, the common thread seems to be the party's alleged big-brotherly attitude. "There is very little respect being given to the alliance partners. The BJP views the relationship as transactional. Policy issues are decided by a very centralised party. This was seen during the CAA and now with the farm Bills. The BJP has not provided any indication of serious deliberations on issues that affect people's lives and also the core vote bank of the allies," political analyst Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay said.

We take a look at what caused allies to break away from the BJP-led alliance.

Andhra Pradesh

The major bone of contention was the special package promised to Andhra Pradesh by the UPA-2 during the bifurcation of the state. While the TDP accused the BJP dispensation at the Centre of breaking that promise, the saffron party called the Chandrababu Naidu-led party's decision to part ways as 'political opportunism'. The Centre's decision in March 2018 to give only ₹1,200 crore to Andhra, as against Naidu's demand for a ₹20,000 crore special package, was the breaking point for the TDP.

In this file photo PM Modi is seen with Shiromani Akali Dal leaders | PTI

> **After the SAD's exit, the BJP is not left with any major ally in the heartland states, except Bihar where it has the JD-U. The BJP should be concerned about the allies breaking ties**
> Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay, political analyst

Maharashtra

The Shiv Sena, the BJP's oldest ally, surprised everyone in November 2019 by parting ways with the BJP and forming the government with the Congress and the NCP.

Despite bickering and differences on a few earlier occasions, too, the glue of Hindutva made both parties stick together. Besides, BJP was earlier ready to play the second fiddle to Sena in Maharashtra. But this political equation changed in 2014 when the BJP won the 122 seats in the assembly. It became the main player while the Sena — which went alone in the polls and won 68 seats — joined the government as a junior partner without much 'say' in the Devendra Fadnavis government.

Uddhav Thackeray sensed that tying up with the BJP was not yielding the desired results. In the 2019 assembly polls, despite the alliance with the BJP, the Sena could only win 56 seats. Its stature was diminishing with every election, even as the BJP was increasing its footprint by poaching opposition leaders. Earlier, the ties had been strained when the BJP used all its might to wrest the cash-rich Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation from the Sena in 2017 corporation elections. The Sena managed to save the day with the tacit support of the Congress-NCP.

Punjab

With the BJP in firm control at the Centre and expanding its wings in the states under Modi rule, the Punjab unit of the saffron party started demanding more seat share from SAD and did not want to play the second fiddle despite the fact that the party could not make inroads in the rural vote bank.

When the SAD-BJP combine was in power in the state from 2007 to 2017, BJP leaders alleged from time to time that the drug and sand mafia in the state had the patronage of SAD leaders.

The sacrilege incidents of Guru Granth Sahib in 2015 across the state and the subsequent police firing at Bargari in October that year further dented SAD's image and BJP was quick to distance itself from the episodes.

On the other hand, the SAD accused the BJP of backtracking from the commitment of contesting Haryana assembly jointly. In the Delhi elections, too, the BJP snubbed SAD's demand for more seats.

Jharkhand

The BJP-AJSU alliance, which remained intact for 19 years, finally gave way last year as the AJSU was demanding a larger share of seats in 2019 Assembly polls while the BJP was not ready to give more than 13. On the other hand, BJP was reportedly unhappy with the pressure being built by the AJSU which had been opposing almost every decision taken by Raghubar Das government.

Pawar meets Thackeray over farm Bills

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

A day after the meeting between former CM Devendra Fadnavis and Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar met the Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday. According to sources, the CM and the NCP chief reportedly discussed the controversial farm laws and whether they would be implemented in the state.

The Congress and the NCP are opposing these new laws related to the farm sector and said that they will not let these laws to be implemented in Maharashtra. However, Shiv Sena is yet to clear its stand.

It is being said that Pawar met with Thackery to understand Sena's position on the issue. Earlier, state Congress chief Balasaheb Thorat had also met the chief minister and demanded not to implement the new laws act in Maharashtra.

Pawar's meeting with the CM comes on the heels of the much-talked about meeting between Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis. The meeting had generated a flutter in the political circles on whether the BJP and the Shiv Sena are coming together again after falling out in November last year. It was also speculated that Raut and Fadnavis may have discussed co-operation the farm Bills issue where the BJP-ruled Centre is facing stiff opposition from all sides.

However, Raut has clarified that it was a non-political meeting. It was said that Raut met Fadnavis as he wants to interview the former CM, Amit Shah and PM as part of his series of mega interviews.

Getting green clearance under Modi govt taking longer than UPA rule

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

THE Narendra Modi government has claimed to have cut down time for granting environment clearances for infrastructure projects but the data of project clearances for the last 5 years shows otherwise.

Time taken for project clearance by the Environment Ministry has increased gradually since 2015 from 83-220 days in 2015-16 to 176-336 days in 2019-2020, data reveals.

In run up to the general elections in 2014, the BJP had targeted the UPA for making green clearances a major obstacle in country's economic development. Hence, after coming to power, one of the major reforms that the BJP announced was cutting down duration for granting green clearances on account of streamlining procedures and relaxing several environment norms.

AVERAGE TIME TAKEN FOR ENVIRONMENT CLEARANCE

YEARS	DAYS
2015-16	83-220
2016-17	107-232
2017-18	117-231
2018-19	102-225
2019-20	176-336

According to Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar green clearances are given within a span of 100 days.

According to environment ministry, as many as 138 proposals at central level and 15,658 projects at state level are pending for clearance.

The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 has categorised the projects into two categories — Category A and Category B based on their impact potential. Category A projects are being appraised at the Central level (ministry) while Category B project at the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs).

The project proponent have to seek environment clearance for infrastructure projects to assess the impact it will have on the environment and based on the assessment, the projects are approved or rejected.

"The proposals for EC are processed as per the provisions laid down in the EIA Notification, 2006. The time line defined for according EC is one hundred and five days of the receipt of the requisite documents," the ministry informed Parliament.

Various initiatives have been taken to make changes in the policies, ministry said.

> **'Punjab may amend state laws to protect farmers'**
> Terming the President's assent to the farm Bills as unfortunate and distressing, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Sunday said his government is exploring all options, including possible amendments to the state laws, to protect the interests of the farmers. The chief minister will sit on a dharna against these laws on Monday at Khatkar Kalan in SBS Nagar.

Advantage Congress in Punjab as SAD-BJP alliance of 23 yrs breaks

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

WITH the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) breaking its 23-year-old alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), both parties are expected to suffer losses in Punjab. If SAD and BJP contest separately in state polls, it will lead to a four-way contest including the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). This will be an advantage for the ruling Congress which has been facing anti-incumbency in the run-up to the assembly elections in early 2022.

Talking to this newspaper, political expert Prof Kuldeep Singh said, "Both SAD and BJP will be at loss. The advantage seems to be going to Congress. BJP didn't want to play the second fiddle in Punjab as its graph went up nationally. The Haryana experiment of fighting elections alone has twice worked in its favour. So, BJP had asked for half the seats in Punjab during the 2017 assembly and 2019 Lok Sabha polls. However, despite its best efforts, BJP has not been able to make inroads in the rural areas and with the farmers' protest that possibility is now gone."

Farmers block railway tracks during 'Rail Roko Andolan' in Amritsar | PTI

Meanwhile, SAD President Sukhbir Singh Badal has said that his party was ready to join any struggle in farmers' interests. He called upon all political parties and organisations to close ranks for a united fight to protect farmers, farm labourers and farm produce traders while addressing a protest gathering in Ropar on Sunday.

Although, BJP leaders have expressed regret at SAD's move, some of them said that the party was ready to go alone. Party's Punjab unit president Ashwani Sharma said that SAD leaving the NDA was unfortunate and BJP is ready to talk to farmers to discuss all issues relating to the farmer Bills.

"It's unfortunate that SAD broke a long association and took the decision in haste. BJP is also a party of farmers and we know how to protect farmers' interests," said senior BJP leader and former minister Manoranjan Kalia. When asked about the assembly polls, he said, "We are ready to contest the polls alone and will form the government." Another former minister Madan Mohan Mittal expressed similar views.

Jobs to kin of slain CAPF personnel on compassionate grounds see a decline

SANA SHAKIL @ New Delhi

A provision meant to support the families of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel killed in the line of duty — providing jobs on compassionate grounds to the next of the kin — has seen a gradual decline over the years, according to the Home Ministry.

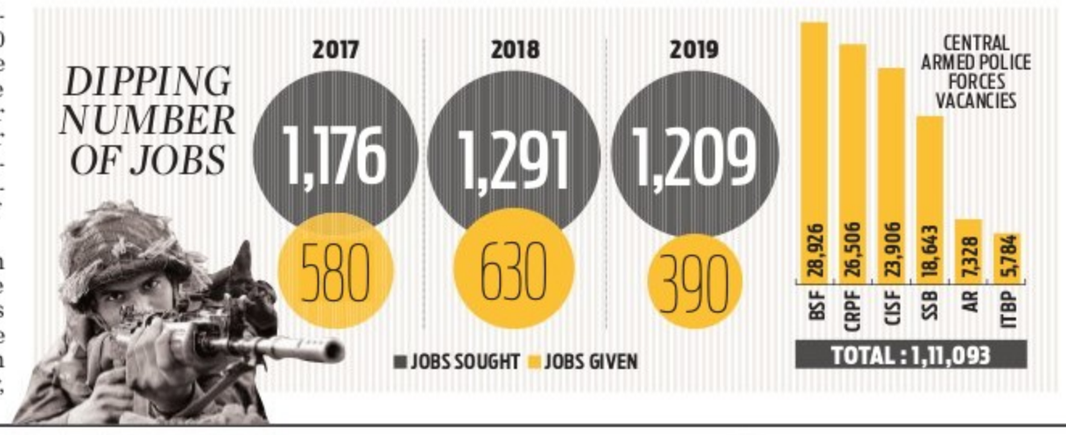
Of the total 1,209 people, who sought jobs on compassionate grounds in 2019, only about 32% or 390 persons, could get jobs in paramilitary forces. In 2018, 1,291 people of such families sought jobs of which 630 applicants managed to join the forces. In 2017, the percentage of successful applicants under this category was even higher at 49.31%. That year, 1,176 dependents of the deceased applied for jobs and almost half of them were given jobs.

2017 also recorded maximum casualties in the CAPFs in the last three years. As many as 1510 soldiers of central police forces were killed in action in 2017. In the succeeding year, 1240 deaths of CAPFs were reported whereas in 2019, 1382 personnel were killed. A total of 4132 CAPF soldiers have been killed on duty in the last three years from 2017-2019. In the past, family members of the deceased have staged protests demanding an increase in proportion of jobs given to the affected families.

The CAPFs comprise of CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP, SSB, and AR.

Among all CAPFs, CRPF, which is deployed for anti-terrorist and anti-Maoist operations lost almost 1,597 over three years followed by BSF which lost 725 personnel and CISF lost 671 personnel during 2017-2019. The casualties in ITBP, AR and SSB stood at 429, 381 and 329 in the last three years.

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai shared statistics in the Parliament on the issue last week while responding to questions posed by his party colleague Pratima Bhoumik.



COVID PATIENT KILLS SELF

A 42-year-old Covid-19 patient allegedly committed suicide in government Medical College and Hospital in Aurangabad on Sunday. The Paithan resident, who was admitted in GMCH on September 25, jumped off the window beside his bed.

5 HELD FOR KILLING PHARMACY OWNER IN MUZAFFARNAGAR

Ahmedabad	35	27	Mumbai	32	26
Bhopal	32	24	Panaji	30	25
Jaipur	36	26	Patna	32	25
Amritsar	36	23	Lucknow	36	26
Chennai	32	26	Port Blair	29	24
Kolkata	34	24	Imphal	30	21
Srinagar	08	27	Chandigarh	36	22

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav addresses the media in Patna on Sunday | PTI

'THE STATE LACKS COPS, DOCTORS'

Tejashwi Yadav said Bihar has only 77 policemen per one lakh of the population which is worse than several small states like Manipur and others where the ratio is one thousand policemen per one lakh population

Quoting the WHO's health standard, he said there should be one doctor per 1,000 population but there is only one doctor per 17 thousand of population in Bihar

There are an estimated 3 crore young voters in poll-bound Bihar. Tejashwi has made unemployment in the state an election issue

Tejashwi woos youth, vows 10L jobs

RJD leader says his commitment to address employment is not a poll promise but a strong will

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ Patna

IN an attempt to corner the Nitish Kumar-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government on the issue of unemployment, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav has promised to provide 10 lakh jobs as the first decision after coming to power. There are an estimated 3 crore young voters in poll-bound Bihar.

"With the first signature in the first cabinet, 10 lakh youths of Bihar will be given jobs," Yadav said on Sunday.

Attacking the NDA government, Yadav said that Bihar has fallen to 26th rank in industry promotion and internal trades with crores of youths running from pillar to post for employment.

The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) has launched a digital portal on August 5 seeking resumes of unemployed youths, he said. "Since then, over 2 crore unemployed youth have registered themselves for jobs," he said.

Reiterating his commitment to fighting against unemployment, he said youth make up around 60 per cent of the total population of the state. The rate of unemployment has increased to 46.6 per cent in 2020 from 32.5 in 2015, he said.

"But Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and the NDA government, being in power for 15 years, still shy away from speaking on the issue," he said.

Tejashwi also claimed that his announcement on unemployment is not merely a poll-promise but a "commitment'.

He added that a comprehensive blueprint on jobs would be prepared after the RJD-led government is formed in the state to ensure jobs in the private institutions also. Around 2.5 lakhs vacancies exist in the health services while more than 50,000 in the police department, he said. Quoting figures, he said that the posts of around 1.25 lakh doctors are lying vacant in addition to 2.5 lakh vacancies in the health services.

> **We need 1.25 lakh new doctors. Besides, an adequate number of lab technicians, nurses and pharmacists adding to the number of people required is 2.5 lakh in the health department alone**
>
> Tejashwi Yadav, RJD leader

Bihar still ranks on the last in the standard set by the Ministry of Health, he said.

He said that Bihar needs 3 lakh teachers urgently and 50,000 professors at the college and university level. 66% posts of junior engineers have been lying vacant after the retirement of about 75,000 engineers in the departments of road construction, water resources, building construction, power department and other engineering departments, he added. "About 2 lakh posts of clerks, assistants, peons and other sections staff need to be appointed," he said.

Ex-DGP completes 'khaki to khadi' switch, joins JD-U

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ Patna

CM Nitish Kumar presents membership slip to ex-DGP Gupteshwar Pandey | PTI

SIX days after taking voluntary retirement from Indian Police Services, former Bihar police chief Gupteshwar Pandey joined the state's ruling JD-U on Sunday. Pandey completed his switch from 'khaki to khadi' in the presence of CM Nitish Kumar at the latter's residence in Patna. After taking primary membership of the party, Pandey visited the JD-U office with senior leaders including Lok Sabha MP Rajiv Ranjan alias Lalan Singh.

"I was called by CM Nitish Kumarji himself and asked to join the party. I have joined the party after being impressed by his statesmanship and performance in governance," Pandey told the media. He also said that he would serve the party and try to come true to the expectations of a disciplined and dedicated party worker.

When asked about contesting elections, Pandey said that it was up to the party to decide how to use his services. "I will follow the order of the party and our leader. It will not be my decision whether to contest elections or not but continue working as disciplined sipahi of the party,", he said.

Speculation is rife that Pandey may be offered a ticket to contest the assembly election from a seat in his native Buxar district. Sources also said that he may be fielded in the Bagaha Lok Sabha by-poll that has been necessitated by the death of JD-U sitting MP Baidhnath Prasad Mahto.

The 1987 batch former-IPS officer had hogged the limelight during the controversy surrounding the death of Sushant Singh Rajput. He had strongly criticised the Mumbai police for their non-cooperation to Bihar Police during their investigation in the death of the Bihar-born actor. He has also courted controversy for his statement saying Rhea Chakraborty had no 'aukat' (stature) to comment on Bihar CM Nitish Kumar.

Pandey is known for his skilful oratory and earned the moniker of 'people's cop'. He was speculated to join the BJP but ultimately chose JD-U.

Ladakh may get back land, job protection guarantees

SANA SHAKIL @ New Delhi

Amit Shah and Kiren Rijiju (top) during a meeting with Ladkh representatives | PTI

LADAKH may get back the protection in jobs and land that were guaranteed to the erstwhile state of J&K under Article 35A. This was indicated by a delegation of political representatives from Ladakh on Sunday who withdrew their call to boycott the upcoming hill council elections a day after holding talks with Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The government said it was open to discussing protection available under the Sixth Schedule and other provisions of the constitution to Ladakh, adding that all issues of people of Ladakh concerning language, demography, ethnicity, land and jobs will be considered positively. Shah assured the delegation that the Centre would explore all avenues towards this objective including under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

The delegation of the People's Movement for Constitutional Safeguard Under Sixth Schedule for Ladakh was assured that the Centre is committed to empowering the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) of Leh and Kargil and would protect the interests of the people of the Union Territory.

Union Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy will be in Ladakh on a two-day tour starting on Monday to hold further discussions on the issue and to allay the apprehensions of the people of Ladakh.

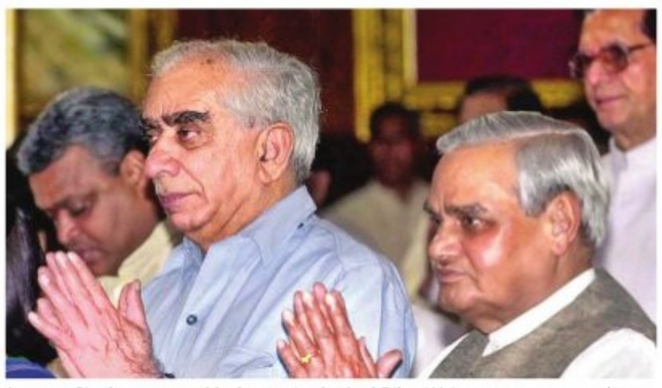
The People's Movement, a platform representing various politicians and organisations, had on September 22 decided to boycott the upcoming LAHDC elections over their demands for bringing Ladakh under the ambit of provisions of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. It has been seeking the empowerment of the autonomous bodies similar to the Bodo Territorial Council in Assam.

In a joint statement, former Ladakh MPs Thiksay Rinpoche and Thupstan Chhewang, former J&K minister Chhering Dorje and Union ministers Kiren Rijiju and G Kishan Reddy said a dialogue between a larger Ladakhi delegation comprising representatives from Leh and Kargil districts under the aegis of People's Movement for constitutional safeguard under the Sixth Schedule for Ladakh and the MHA would commence after 15 days of the culmination of LAHDC, Leh elections, scheduled for October 16.

Jaswant Singh's son Manvendra Singh at his residence in New Delhi | PARVEEN NEGI

THE SOLDIER WHO PLAYED KEY ROLES IN VAJPAYEE ERA

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur



Jaswant Singh was a troubleshooter in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government | FILE

THE death of former Union minister Jaswant Singh marks the end of a shining star of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee era of Indian politics. Singh, one of the founding members of the BJP, was at the centre of Indian strategy and policies in the era in various roles in the defence, finance, and external affairs ministries.

He is survived by his wife and two sons, including former Barmer MP Manvendra.

Singh was born in Jasol village of Rajasthan's Barmer district. On Sunday, the village marked his death with a deep sense of grief. All shops and markets in the area remained closed as a mark of respect.

Raised in a feudal Rajput family, Singh joined the Army and served till 1965 when he resigned to pursue a political career. He rose to prominence in 1980 after being sent the Rajya Sabha by the newly-formed BJP. Singh remained a member of one of the Houses of Parliament till 2014. He was also conferred the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award for the year 2001.

Singh was known for his fondness for Polo. Besides his political pursuits, Singh was a learned author of numerous books and a senior fellow at Harvard and a visiting professor at Oxford. His mastery over the English language is said to have endeared him especially to Vajpayee.

As Vajpayee's close friend, Singh was often entrusted with sensitive tasks on behalf of the NDA government. After India conducted nuclear tests in 1998, Singh's negotiations with the US representative Strobe Talbot played a vital role in easing of sanctions by the United States. However, he faced heavy criticism for the Kandhar episode. He was also a close friend of former Rajasthan CMs Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and Vasundhara Raje. However, later in his life, Singh fell out with Raje and turned into bitter foes.

After he was denied a ticket in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, Singh decide to contest the elections as an independent candidate from Barmer. He was expelled from the party. A few months later, Singh suffered a serious fall in his bathroom and slipped into a coma. Sadly, the valiant armyman-turned-politician could never recover from that terrible tragedy.

Dungarpur on the edge as cops, protesters clash

JAIPUR: Rajasthan's Dungarpur district, where candidates of a teacher recruitment exam have blocked nearly 10 km of National Highway-8 for the last four days, continued to remain tense on Sunday with the police resorting to firing tear gas to disparse the protesters.

Violence erupted across districts on Thursday when the candidates of teachers' recruitment examination-2018 blocked Udaipur-Ahmedabad highway, pelted stones at the police, damaged properties and torched vehicles demanding filling of 1,167 general vacant posts with ST candidates.

On Sunday, the protesters pelted stones on the police. They have spread out to Kherwada, Rishabhdev and Bichiwada areas. *ENS*

Political crisis in Manipur deepens as NPP accuses BJP of betrayal over rejig

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

WHY IS NPP UPSET?

- On Thursday, the CM dropped six ministers from the Council of Ministers
- NPP's L Jayantakumar Singh and N Kayisii were among them

THE axing of two of its four ministers in Manipur has not gone down as well with the National People's Party (NPP) with party insiders terming it an act of "betrayal" by its ally BJP in the state.

On Thursday, CM N Biren Singh dropped six ministers, including three from the BJP, from the Council of Ministers and inducted five new faces, including Oinam Lukhoi and Okram Henry, who is a nephew of former CM Okram Ibobi Singh of the Congress, into the Cabinet. Former health minister L Jayantakumar Singh and tribal affairs minister N Kayisii of NPP were among the dropped six ministers.

The four NPP legislators, who are camping in Guwahati, held a meeting with party's national president and Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma on Saturday evening. They were expected to hold another round of meeting on Sunday evening and decide the fate of the NPP's alliance with the BJP.

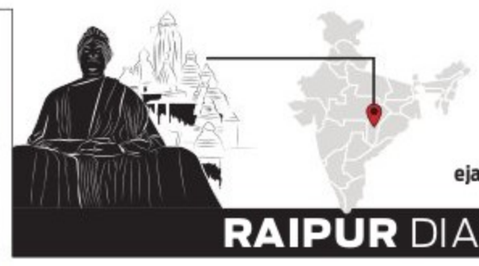
"We are not happy. Home Minister Amit Shah had made a commitment to us. It was not fulfilled. They betrayed us," an NPP legislator, requesting anonymity, told this newspaper.

"No decision (on the alliance with the BJP) was made last night. We will meet him (Sangma) again on Sunday evening and make a decision," the NPP legislator said.

Lukhoi and Henry, who had won the 2017 elections on the Congress's tickets, had resigned as MLAs prior to defecting to the BJP last month. Recently, when reports were rife on the social media that two NPP ministers would be dropped, the party's Manipur unit had sent out a message to the BJP that it would withdraw its support to the government if any of them was targeted. In June, all four NPP ministers had pulled out of the government following differences with the CM. They returned as ministers just days later after BJP's leaders, including Shah and JP Nadda, had assured them of addressing their grievances.

Police boosting troops' morale in Maoist hotbed

As part of the multi-pronged strategy involving security and development-related measures executed in the Bastar zone, the senior police officials are now also visiting the base camps situated in the hostile Maoist hotbed areas to interact with the troops. Besides gaining the first-hand experience of the ground situation, the Special DG (anti-Maoist operation) Ashok Juneja, Bastar IG Sunderraj P and the respective district police chiefs are focussing to resolve the issues faced by the forces, evaluating connectivity, infrastructure, intelligence gathering, civic action programme among others.



RAIPUR DIARY

EJAZ KAISER
Our correspondent in Chhattisgarh
ejaz@newindianexpress.com

Mobile health facilities in urban slums

The slum areas of as many as 14 municipal corporations of Chhattisgarh will access the doorstep delivery of health facilities. A committee constituted to implement the Mukhyamantri Shahari Slum Swasthya Yojna, through the urban administration department, has recommended disbursing `55 crore for the scheme. The residents of urban slum areas will access better health facilities through mobile medical units along with free diagnosis and medicines, said Chief Secretary R P Mandal, who heads the committee. "People in slum areas staying indoors or failing to visit a hospital for various ailments should not suffer. Such services at the behest of the chief minister will serve the needy people," he added.

Mohalla Classes taking education forward

Amidst lockdown and unlock phases, the primary and middle school children in the government schools are getting their education via Mohalla Classes and the online portal 'Padhai Tuhar Dwar'. "It's heartening to see the committed teachers and community coming forward to support Mohalla classes across the state. Extensive innovative activities are happening in such classes following the norms specified as Covid-19 guidelines. Over 80% of students are getting their education from attending the Mohalla and online classes.

CRPF's Fit India Freedom Run

The premier paramilitary CRPF has set a target to accomplish one crore kilometre of run and walk under its ongoing 'Fit India Freedom Run'. The Run is being organised in pursuance to the guidelines issued by the Union Home Ministry. The event began on September 1 and will continue till October 2. It's been witnessing enthusiastic participation by CRPF officials, personnel and their family members. The CRPF IG Prakash D affirmed that remaining fit by incorporating physical activities is crucial for anybody to accomplish their goals. For CRPF, every day is an opportunity to remain active.

1 lakh
people took to the streets in the Belarusian capital Minsk for another weekend of mass protests against President Alexander Lukashenko

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	26	17	SNY	Los Angeles	28	17	SNY
Colombo	30	25	TDS	Melbourne	14	3	LC
Doha	41	27	SNY	Moscow	13	9	LC
Dubai	37	26	SNY	New York	23	18	LC
Houston	25	15	LC	Singapore	33	26	LR
Istanbul	28	21	LC	Toronto	25	15	LC
London	19	13	LC	Washington DC	27	19	LC

New Azerbaijan-Armenia fighting may reignite 30-year-old war

Both countries declare martial law as conflict erupts again over disputed Nagorno-Karabakh enclave; more than 100 wounded; reports say 2 choppers shot down

YEREVAN

FIGHTING erupted anew Sunday between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces over the disputed separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh and a top territorial official said 16 people were killed and more than 100 wounded, while Azerbaijan's president said his military has suffered losses.

Armenia also claimed that two Azerbaijani helicopters were shot down and three Azerbaijani tanks were hit by artillery, but Azerbaijan's defense ministry rejected that claim.

Heavy fighting broke out in the morning in the region that lies within Azerbaijan. It was not immediately clear what sparked the fighting, the heaviest since clashes in July killed 16 people from both sides.

Nagorno-Karabakh authorities reported that shelling hit the region's capital of Stepanakert and the towns of Martakert and Martuni. Armenian Defense Ministry spokesman Artsrun Hovhannisyan also said Azerbaijani shelling hit within Armenian territory near the town of Vardenis.

Artur Sarkisian, deputy head of the Nagorno-Karabakh army, said that 16 people were killed and more than 100 wounded. It wasn't immediately clear if the figure included both soldiers and civilians. Earlier, the Armenian human rights ombudsman said a woman and child had been killed in the shelling.

Another Armenian Defense Ministry spokeswoman, Shushan Stepanyan, said "the Armenian side" shot down two helicopters and hit three tanks.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev ordered martial law be imposed in some regions of the country and called for a curfew in major cities.

In a televised address to the nation, Aliyev said that "there are losses among the Azerbaijani forces and the civilian population as a result of the Armenian bombardment," but didn't give further details. He also claimed that "many units of the enemy's military equipment have been destroyed."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov "is conducting intensive contacts in order to induce the parties to cease fire and start negotiations to stabilize the situation," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama, chairman of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, called on the sides to stop fighting. The long-unsuccessful negotiations for resolving the territory's status has been conducted under OSCE auspices.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian on Sunday said the country could reexamine whether to recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as independent. Such a move would likely obstruct further negotiations.

The news was harshly received in Turkey, a close ally of Azerbaijan.

Turkey's ruling party spokesman Omer Celik tweeted: "We vehemently condemn Armenia's attack on Azerbaijan. Armenia has once again committed a provocation, ignoring law." He promised Turkey would stand by Azerbaijan and said, "Armenia is playing with fire and endangering regional peace." *AP*

NAGORNO KARABAKH
1994 Lies within Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since 1994 at the end of a separatist war, which left 30,000 people dead
4,400 km² area, slightly bigger than Goa. It's mostly mountainous
50 kms from the Armenian border

2010 The last big push for a peace deal by France, Russia and the United States collapsed

REGIONAL BACKERS
A war would draw in the big regional players Russia and Turkey, which supports Azerbaijan

The Armenian army purportedly destroys Azerbaijan's tanks in this image from a video from the Armenian government | AFP

Hindus, Sikhs flee Afghanistan after attacks by Islamic State

KABUL

AFGHANISTAN'S dwindling community of Sikhs and Hindus is shrinking to its lowest levels. With growing threats from the local Islamic State (IS) affiliate, many are choosing to leave the country of their birth to escape the insecurity and a once-thriving community of as many as 250,000 members now counts fewer than 700.

The community's numbers have been declining for years because of deep-rooted discrimination in the majority Muslim country. But, without what they say is adequate protection from the government, the attacks by the IS group may complete the exodus.

"We are no longer able to stay here," said a member of the tiny community, who asked to be identified only by his last name, Hamdard, out of fear he may be targeted for speaking out. Hamdard said seven relatives of his, including his sister, nephews, and son-in-law were killed by Islamic State gunmen in an attack on the community's temple in March, which killed 25 Sikhs.

Afghan Sikh men mourn their beloved ones killed by an IS gunman in March | AP

Hamdard said that fleeing his homeland is as difficult as leaving a mother behind. Still, he joined a group of Sikhs and Hindus who left Afghanistan last month for India, from where they will eventually move on to a third country.

Although Sikhism and Hinduism are two distinct religions, in Afghanistan the communities are interwoven, having been driven into a kinship by their tiny size, and they both gather under one roof or a single temple to worship, each following their own faith.

The community has suffered widespread discrimination in the conservative Muslim country, with each government "threatening us their own way," said Hamdard, whose home was seized by warlords after the US invasion in 2001, forcing him to live in one of two Sikh temples in the Afghan capital of Kabul. *AP*

ASIA MATTERS

PAKISTAN

Provincial govt to buy ancestral homes of Raj Kapoor and Dilip Kumar

The provincial government in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa has decided to purchase the ancestral houses of legendary actors Raj Kapoor and Dilip Kumar to conserve the historic buildings which are in a dilapidated condition and facing demolition. The Department of Archaeology in the province has decided to allocate funds for purchasing the buildings, which have been declared as the national heritage and lie in the heart of Peshawar. A letter has been sent to the Deputy Commissioner of Peshawar to determine the cost of the buildings, where the two greats of Indian cinema were born and raised in their early days before the partition, said Dr Abdus Samad Khan, the head of the department.

BANGLADESH

26 cops face termination for failing drug test

Twenty-six policemen are undergoing termination proceedings for failing a surprise drug test. The erring officials include a traffic sergeant, four sub-inspectors, three assistant sub-inspectors, a 'nayek', and 17 constables -- all members of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), the Dhaka Tribune reported. The DMP is conducting surprise dope tests on cops as part of a wider crackdown on drug peddling.

SRI LANKA

Container of illegal waste sent back to UK

Sri Lanka has shipped back to Britain container-loads of waste that the government said was brought into the island in violation of international laws governing the shipping of hazardous material. The 21 containers -- holding up to 260 tonnes of rubbish -- first arrived by ship in the capital Colombo's main port between September 2017 and March 2018, customs told AFP, adding that they departed Sri Lanka on Saturday. They were meant to carry used mattresses, carpets and rugs, but had also contained hospital waste, officials said. Customs did not reveal the type of hospital waste, but previous illegally imported containers had included rags, bandages and body parts from mortuaries, according to officials.

EXPRESS READ

US eyes Sudan for next Israel policy triumph

Khartoum: Sudan's Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok has said that normalising ties with Israel was a "complicated" issue needing wide debate within society, media reported Sunday. Earlier this month, Israel signed US-brokered deals to normalise ties with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. The administration of US President Donald Trump wants Sudan to follow suit, and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited Khartoum in August to push a deal. Sudan's economy is in crisis, partly due to sanctions imposed because it is on a US blacklist as an alleged state sponsor of terrorism. On Saturday, Hamdok was questioned by reporters on the two issues of lifting US sanctions and normalising ties with Washington's ally Israel. "We spoke with the US Secretary of State and told him 'let us separate the two tracks,'" Hamdok said, speaking on the sidelines of an economic conference in Khartoum.

Boris faces furious Tory revolt over Covid curbs

LONDON

BORIS Johnson, called dejected and dogmatic even by his partisans, is enduring a torrid time in his premiership, and worse may lie ahead.

The coronavirus pandemic is testing all world leaders. But Britain has suffered more than any other country in Europe, and now the prime minister faces a revolt by Conservative colleagues who accuse him of governing by diktat.

If the Covid-19 crisis has dictated the need for emergency policies on the hoof, the government has had plenty of time to prepare for life outside the European Union.

But there too, an air of mutiny hangs over parliament after Johnson picked a Brexit fight with Brussels that puts Britain on the wrong side of international law.

"Conservative MPs didn't elect Boris Johnson as their leader because they thought he'd make a great prime minister," Tim Bale, professor of politics at Queen Mary University of London, told AFP.

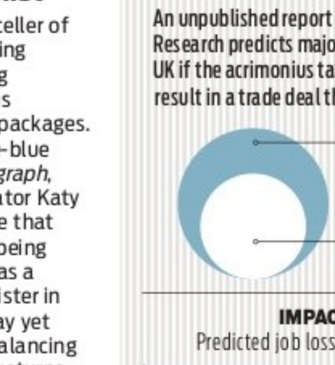
"They elected him as their leader because they were desperate to win an election."

It is in the ranks of his own Conservative party that Johnson faces the biggest test. The prime minister's 80-seat majority should provide a comfortable cushion, but 40-60 Tories are said to be plotting a revolt when the government's emergency virus powers come up for renewal this week.

Johnson himself nearly died of Covid-19 in April. In raising doubts about his political acumen of late, some Conservatives have openly aired concerns about the long-term effects on his health. "Whatever the cause, he has become doctrinaire and resistant to debate," argued *Daily Mail* columnist Stephen Glover.

For the *Spectator*, which Johnson once edited, the premier is presiding over "disorder, debacle, rebellion, U-turn and confusion".

"He's no longer fit to be prime minister and should step down as soon as he's got Brexit done," wrote *Spectator* contributor Toby Young, normally a fervent backer of Johnson. *AFP*

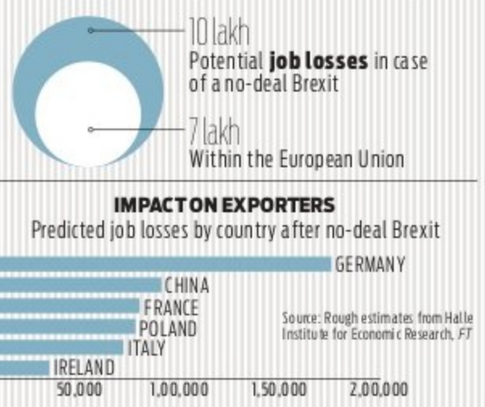

British PM Boris Johnson | AP

Rishi Sunak being talked up as PM in waiting, says columnist

Boris Johnson's Indian-origin Chanceller of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, is winning plaudits for a series of big-spending coronavirus economic packages. In the true-blue *Daily Telegraph*, commentator Katy Balls wrote that Sunak is "being talked up as a prime minister in waiting", although she noted he may yet come a cropper when it comes to balancing the books as mass unemployment returns. In announcing his latest package on Thursday, the chancellor of the exchequer said Britons must learn to "live without fear" -- delighting Tory sceptics who want Johnson to prioritise the survival of businesses over more stringent lockdowns.

RIPPLES OF A CHAOTIC BREXIT

An unpublished report from the Halle Institute for Economic Research predicts major job losses for firms exporting to the UK if the acrimonius talks between the EU and Britain fail to result in a trade deal this year, the *Financial Times* reported



Labour heads polls in a first in Johnson's leadership

LONDON

BRITAIN'S Labour Party on Sunday registered its first polling lead since Boris Johnson became PM last year as support for his crisis-wracked Conservative government continued to plunge.

The Opinium poll for the Observer newspaper put Labour on 42%, with the Conservatives on 39%.

New Labour leader Keir Starmer also led when voters were asked who would make the best prime minister, being the preferred choice for 36% of voters compared to 32% for Johnson.

The Tories were polling 26 points ahead of Labour in March, but Johnson's handling of the coronavirus epidemic, which has claimed almost 42,000 lives in Britain, has seen his popularity plummet.

There appears little relief on the horizon for the prime minister as he grapples with another spike in coronavirus cases while trying to avert a collapse of the economy.

He faces a revolt next week by Conservative colleagues who accuse him of governing by diktat and speculation is already brewing about a potential replacement, with finance minister Rishi Sunak attracting attention. *AFP*

Republicans aim for quick confirmation of SC nominee

WASHINGTON

REPUBLICAN senators are lining up for a swift confirmation of Judge Amy Coney Barrett — US President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee — ahead of the November 3 election, as they aim to lock in conservative gains in the federal judiciary before a potential transition of power.

For Trump, whose 2016 victory hinged in large part on reluctant support from white evangelicals on the promise of filling Scalia's seat with a conservative, the latest nomination in some ways brings his first term full circle. Even before Ginsburg's death, Trump was running on having confirmed in excess of 200 federal judges, fulfilling a generational aim of conservative legal activists.

He said Sunday the Senate will "easily" confirm Barrett before the election, despite furious Democratic opposition.

Barring a huge surprise, Republican senators, who have 53 out of 100 votes in the upper house of Congress, are expected to confirm Barrett.

Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican, has already said that a vote will be held "this year." *Agencies*

Trump to just wing it in prez debates, Biden preps using role play

WASHINGTON

AHEAD of the first debate-stage matchup between President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger Joe Biden, each campaign is promising a stark contrast in policy, personality and preparation.

Trump has decided to skip any formal preparation. And while Biden's team believes the significance of the debate may be exaggerated, the Democratic nominee has been aggressively preparing to take on the president.

Biden's campaign has been holding mock debate sessions featuring Bob Bauer, a senior Biden adviser and former White House general counsel, playing the role of Trump, according to a person with direct knowledge of the preparations who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal strategy. Bauer has not actually donned a Trump costume in line with Trump stand-ins from previous years, but he is representing his style and expected strategy.

"I'm sure the president will throw everything he can at (Biden). My guess is that they're preparing for that -- bombarding him with insults and weird digressions," said Jay Carney, a former aide to Biden and Barack Obama.

Joe Biden and Donald Trump | AP

Trump and Biden are scheduled to meet on the debate stage for the first time Tuesday night at Case Western Reserve University and the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio. The 90-minute event moderated by Fox News host Chris Wallace is the first of three scheduled presidential debates. Vice President Mike Pence and California Senator Kamala Harris, Biden's running mate, will also debate in October.

For some, the debates represent the most important moments in the 2020 campaign's closing days, a rare opportunity for millions of voters to compare the candidates on TV. *AP*

$545.038 bn India's foreign exchange reserves increased by $3.378 billion to touch a life time high in the week ended September 18, RBI data showed

It may take longer than you think for financial markets to recover, but you have enough time to rework investments

UNDERSTANDING THE 'VUCA' WORLD

RAJAS KELKAR

AHEAD of the general elections of May 2019, this column touched upon the term 'VUCA'. It stands for Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous. At that instance, it seemed relevant. Financial markets were unclear about election results. Months before the election, no government takes any major policy decisions, an essential factor to determine future growth in businesses. International and domestic investors turn cautious and wait for the election outcome to decide the future course of action.

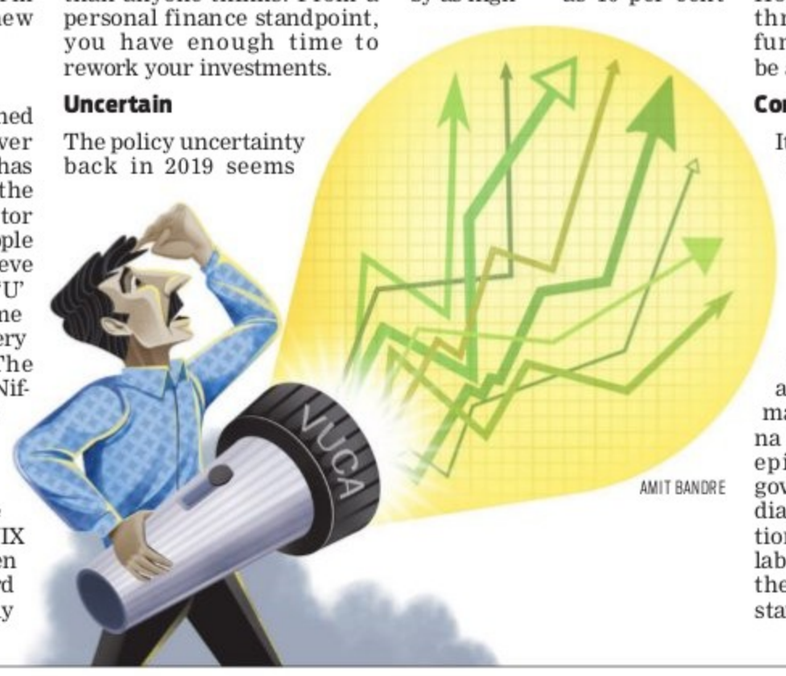
As we think about the world around us today, the term 'VUCA' has got a whole new meaning.

Volatile

Financial markets have turned volatile by a multiple over 2019. The global pandemic has hit markets in India and the world and split the investor community. Some think people are optimistic even to believe that the world would see a 'U' shaped recovery. Then some foresaw a 'V' shaped recovery and played the market. The S&P BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty movement in March 2020 was a case in point. After a 40 per cent slump, share prices have crawled back to the same levels. Before the pandemic, the India VIX index used to hover between 15-20 levels. It scaled a record high in the 80s and quickly crossed the 20-mark on volatile days. The last time volatility soared like that was in the aftermath of the global financial crisis. It took a good one year for businesses to recover. The present situation is not just about financial markets. It is a medical problem that has turned into a social and economic issue. That could take much longer to recover than anyone thinks. From a personal finance standpoint, you have enough time to rework your investments.

Uncertain

The policy uncertainty back in 2019 seems like no uncertainty at all. Just read the commentary from experts. Very few can tell you what lies ahead. Someone says the US dollar would crash and someone else pitches for the flight to safety in the US dollar-denominated assets. Analysts have a wide range of assessment for India's growth in 2020-21 and 2021-22. Some say the economy would contract by as high as 10 per cent and bounce back to 7 per cent growth in 2021-22. Riding on that assessment, stock market analysts predict a fall of 10-15 per cent in profit growth of Nifty companies and a jump of as high as 55 per cent in 2021-22. It is tough to make sense of these numbers and believe that things would move that direction. That makes direct stock market investing tough. However, passive investing through exchange-traded funds or mutual funds may be a way out.



AMIT BANDRE

Complex

It was just about waiting for the election results day to make things simple from a policy standpoint. The present situation takes the complexity of the government policy to a new level. Ahead of the pandemic, the government was trying to pitch India as an alternate destination for manufacturing as the US-China trade war waged. As the epidemic hit the world, the government is out pushing India as an investment destination. It hurriedly passed a few labour laws to enhance further the 'Ease of doing business' standing in the world. However, with tax and non-tax revenue in a free fall, the government has limited headroom to provide any financial incentives to new businesses. The present need is to put cash in the hands of the people and companies. However, the government is unable to do so due to fiscal constraints. It has resorted to making changes in compliance rules and providing relief on tax compliance and loan repayments. While it is prudent from a government finances standpoint, it may not be enough. It would help if you watched out for the interest rates as they affect your finances directly.

Ambiguous

It was all about the ambiguity in the government policies ahead of the 2019 general elections and after the event. Today, the term is much more clear than ever before. One example is enough to explain it. There was a lot of apprehension about employees 'working from home' before the pandemic. As the number of infections raged, white-collar workers swiftly made a move. So much so that businesses are now in a fix. Many have found employees turn more efficient than before. While you cannot replace an office with all employees working from home at large listed companies, you have to incorporate new policies to make that a standard procedure. There is a lot of ambiguity out there about 'workplace' rules at home.

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

MONEY-WISE

Road to build great wealth

A lot of young adults ask me "How to get Rich?" – like I have always said under their breath they utter "quickly".

Like one of the persons said 'Sir when I say rich or wealthy... I see myself roaming the world in J class and skiing in the Alps, not sipping coffee in Switzerland when I am 70 years of age" — What use is money at an old age...I want it NOW.

Sadly, I do not have such 'get rich quick' schemes – and I do not know of anybody who has such schemes. Here is what Ken Fisher has to say are the 10 steps..see what works for you...

Ken Fisher says there are Just Ten Roads to great wealth. So, What are the Ten Roads? More importantly, what will work for you?

1 Start a successful business—the richest road! Sure you can become Bill Gates or Azim Premji. However, even if you do not become so successful you may still be able to make a couple of crores – not bad. This route is not for all – there are many people who do not consider giving up their jobs will not find this appealing.

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM

writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹ 40 a day'

2 Become the CEO of an existing firm and juice it—a very mechanical function. Jack Welch did it. There are many others who are in this boat, see whether you are academically inclined to do this is what you have to see.

3 Hitch to a successful visionary's wagon and ride along—it's high value-added. If you partner a great idea – the entrepreneur needs support, operations, HR, etc. and all the support at the start up stage. You need not be the visionary, you need to ride along.

4 Turn celebrity into wealth—or wealth into celebrity and then more wealth! Again you need to get parents who push you hard enough to become a celebrity and you should have enough motivation to become a celebrity. However, it is not really easy.

5 Marry well—really, really well. Well, for those of you who are not married this is a good option.

6 Steal it, legally—no guns necessary! One qualification that helps in this is the law degree in the USA. However, we all know of another professional who tried doing it, unsuccessfully. He died before he could use the money! Not getting into names and professions, but most of us know about it, do we not?

7 Capitalize on other people's money (O P M) — where most of the mega-rich are. There are more money managers in the Forbes list than the people whose money they manage. The kind of money people throw at fund managers chasing a rainbow of "index beating" returns is not funny.

8 Invent an endless future revenue stream—even if you're not an inventor! Well Bill Gates did it, maybe you can do it. Many wealth managers have done it.

9 Trump the land barons by monetizing unrealized real estate wealth! A very good idea if your surname is Hiranandani, Raheja, Parekh, etc. however if your surname is Athalye, Subramaniam, Ramakrishnan, do not try this. It may not work.

10 Go down the Road More Traveled—save hard, invest well—forever! To me this seems to be the only option available to you and me. Just go through the grind. Work hard, invest well – choose a large (say 100+ scrips) index and do a SIP – assuming the amc charges are 0.5% p.a. Over a 20 year period treat it like a savings bank account. When you have money, you should invest. When you need money you should sell, simple.To me only step 10 seems to be sensible...God bless you if you can do any of the others. If you do not do step 10, even the earlier steps may not help!!

(Views expressed are personal)

AUTO-PAY

Soon, you can invest in NPS through SIP facility

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@New Delhi

THERE's some good news for investors who want to invest in the National Pension System (NPS). In a bid to make NPS schemes more attractive, the government is now planning to allow investors to invest in the scheme via Systematic Investment plan or SIP. Sources say that the Pension Funds Regulatory and Development Authority of India (PFRDA) is working on it and may announce the SIP facility in NPS by November, this year.

"The agencies are working on it and it is in the final stage. Testing is on for any technical snag. By November, it will be ready for launch.This will really help small investors to invest in the scheme," a senior PFRDA official said. Once it is launched, investors can set up automated bank payments at regular intervals toward their investment plan, just like how SIP in mutual funds works.

The PFRDA is working to aggressively promote the NPS scheme and has announced several initiatives, including offering another chance to those subscribers who have prematurely exited the scheme to join back. Subscribers can do so through e-deposit of the withdrawn amount or opening of a new Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN). Also for the benefit of NPS subscribers, the regulator has allowed e-sign based online facility for change of nomination. Officials claim that these initiatives were taken post Covid-19 as the number of subscribers were gradually going down.

As per the latest NSO data, only 4,969 subscribers joined in July, 2020 in NPS from the central government sector compared with a monthly average of 9,213 in FY19 and 9,904 in FY20.

Similarly from the state government sector, only 22,473 joined the NPS in July 2020 compared with a monthly average of 45,209 in FY19 and 41,333 in FY20.

NPS was introduced in January 1, 2004 for new entrants into the central government service replacing the old pension system. NPS was also made applicable to new employees of all autonomous bodies of the central government and later various state governments also adopted the scheme.

No scrip-wise info needed on ITR for short-term capital gains, says FinMin

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@New Delhi

The main intent behind requiring scrip wise detail is to facilitate the taxpayer in correctly computing the long-term capital gains on these shares/units...

Official statement from Finance Ministry

In what comes as a relief to frequent stock traders, the Ministry of Finance has clarified that reports claiming that scrip-wise information would need to be filed in the Income Tax (I-T) returns for Assessment Year (AY) 2020-21 are "distorted and misleading".

According to the ministry, there was no such requirement for traders who hold stock for less than one year, because the gains arising from such scrips are not classified as long term capital gains (LTCG).

"The gain from share trading in case of stock traders or day traders is generally categorised as short-term capital gains or business income... there is no requirement... for scrip wise reporting in (this) case", an official statement pointed out.

The ministry also pointed out that scrip-wise information was necessary for those taking advantage of the exemption on LTCG introduced in the Finance Act 2018 for listed shares/specified units up to March 31, 2018.

It had also introduced a grandfathering mechanism for the computation of LTCG for these shares, for which scrip-wise information is necessary.

"The scrip wise details in the return of income for AY 2020-21 is required to be filled up only for the reporting of the long-term capital gains for these shares/units which are eligible for the benefit of grandfathering," the ministry said. There is also no need for such information on shares which are "not eligible for grandfathering", the ministry added.

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

PI INDUSTRIES

Current Price ₹1,891.9

Target Price ₹2,342

We believe the company has levers in place to sustain growth momentum in the near term, led by: (a) its recently established two multi-purpose plants ramping up operations, (b) revenue from the Isagro acquisition, (c) sustained growth momentuwm in the CSM business on account of a strong USD1.5b order book, and (d) domestic product launches. We expect a revenue/EBITDA/PAT CAGR of 30%/38%/49% over FY20–22E.

— Motilal Oswal Securities Limited

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *The New Indian Express.*

Nearly 86% self-employed people report income loss due to Covid-19: Survey

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @Chennai

AT LEAST 1.9 crore salaried Indians lost their jobs from April to July due to the Covid-19 pandemic as per the CMIE report. However, the worst affected were the self-employed people and this was evident from a recent survey conducted by digital lending marketplace, Paisabazaar.

According to the survey, nearly 86 per cent of the self-employed customers saw incomes adversely impacted during the lockdown, and 25 per cent claimed their income had come down to zero. The survey was conducted by Paisabazaar among 8,616 participants in the 24-57 age group across 37 cities. The participants had a debt of at least ₹1 lakh.

About 16 per cent of those who were surveyed said they had lost 100 per cent of their income, with another 28 per cent reporting income reduction of more than half due to the ongoing crisis, the survey found. The survey states that the salaried customers, though highly affected, were impacted lesser than the self-employed.

The report also claimed 44 per cent of the salaried respondents said their salary had not been negatively affected, while another 30 per cent said their salary has been reduced by more than half. About 12 per cent salaried customers have reported complete loss of salary due to job loss, the survey said.

Geographically, Chennai was the least impacted and Delhi-NCR the most in terms of loss of income. Over 48 per cent of the consumers, who participated in the survey from Chennai, said they did not suffer any negative impact due to the health crisis and the resultant restrictions imposed. While Delhi-NCR were the most impacted cities with 70 per cent of the respondents reporting a negative impact on income.

In terms of percentage of customers who had complete loss of income, Mumbai was worst affected with 26 per cent residents reporting income plummeting to nil, it noted.

55% borrowers want loans restructuring

Nearly 55 per cent of its respondent would approach their lender to restructure their loans, finds the survey. Within those who availed the moratorium, 70 per cent of them said they would apply for loan recast.

DIGITAL LENDING

Lenders tracking online data may get you loan

BISMAH MALIK @Bengaluru

WHETHER you live in a metro or tier II towns, a Swiggy order on a Sunday or buying veggies through Google Pay and Paytm is now a part of the common routine. But imagine, if you could also get a loan for a medical emergency or for paying utility bills based on your transaction histories!

A lot of digital lending apps are now targeting the millennials, neighbourhood vendors, household helps and daily wage workers to lend small ticket loans after assessing their transactions history. These start-ups are collaborating with banks and non-banking financial institutions (NBFCs) for accessing capital and then reaching out to customers through platforms like aggregators or e-commerce sites.

Even as traditional lenders, including banks, are still the leading financial service providers in the country, the Reserve Bank of India has also underlined the significance of digital lenders, especially those catering to individuals with no credible credit history or cannot give underwritings.

Recently, India's Aadhar architect and Infosys' non-executive Chairman Nandan Nilekani said during a fintech summit that the digital landscape for financial services needs to evolve fast, particularly leveraging the data and to be able to lend loans to the population not typically covered by the traditional lenders.

Subscribing to the above theory, Pradeep Rathnam, founder and chief executive officer (CEO) of TERA Finlabs based in Bengaluru told this publication that his company is collaborating with various tech platforms to source data as well as look for possible customers they can target to avail loans.

"These are really small-ticket size loans meant for anyone who has, for instance, a monthly salary of ₹10,000 and above, but cannot seek the financial assistance from banks because of simply being not eligible or going through the lengthy process," explained Rathnam.

However, a digital lender simply looks at if the same person is digitally active — either having onboarded a platform or transacting digitally — for providing loans, Rathnam added. According to him, the process is not as cumbersome as with the traditional lenders and disbursals are also done in no time.

Digital lending market is estimated to grow 3x by FY22.

Big opportunity in tapping biz underserved by banks

Our estimates suggest tapping small businesses and the $300 billion unorganised lending market will give a huge opportunity to digital lenders, said Abhishek Chauhan, Head Consulting, India at Redseer.

EXPRESS READ

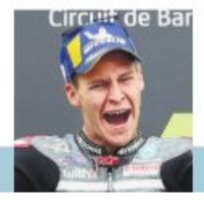
Traders' body CAIT seeks early rollout of e-commerce policy

New Delhi: Traders' body CAIT on Sunday sought early rollout of the e-commerce policy to put curbs on alleged malpractices of large e-commerce players in India. The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) claimed that the e-commerce ecosystem has been greatly vitiated by large e-commerce firms. In the wake of the rise in market share of e-commerce in domestic trade, it is all the more necessary to have a robust policy, it said.

Qatar Airways says losses reach $1.9 bn amid pandemic, boycott

New Delhi: Long-haul carrier Qatar Airways on Sunday reported revenue losses of $1.9 billion for the past year, blaming the coronavirus pandemic, its liquidation of shares in Air Italy and the ongoing boycott of Doha by four Arab nations for the drop. "If not for the exceptional circumstances of fiscal year 2020, our results would have been better than the year before," Qatar Airways CEO Akbar al-Baker said in a statement.

Quartararo wins, goes top of MotoGP standings



France's Fabio Quartararo produced a thrilling and perfect ride to claim a resounding victory at the Catalonya MotoGP on Sunday, his third of the season which sends him top of the world championship standings. Joan Mir came through to take second and is now eight points behind Quartararo while Alex Rins completed the podium.

STANDINGS

TEAM	M	W	L	PT	NRR
DC	2	2	0	4	1.100
RR	2	2	0	4	+.615
KXIP	3	1	2	2	+1.498
MI	2	1	1	2	0.993
KKR	2	1	1	2	-0.767
CSK	3	1	2	2	-0.840
RCB	2	1	1	2	-2.175
SRH	2	0	2	0	-0.730

Updated till RR vs KXIP match

ORANGE CAP

KL RAHUL
222 RUNS

PURPLE CAP

MD SHAMI
07 WKTS

SIX-O-METER
127

FAIR PLAY
CSK

For news, views and more log on to newindianexpress.com/sports/ipl

SPORTING LIFE

LIVE TODAY

CRICKET
MI vs RCB
7.30 PM, Star Sports 1/Hotstar

TENNIS
French Open | Hotstar/Star Sports
Select 2 @ 2:30 pm

FOOTBALL
Premier League
Live on Star Sports Select 2/Hotstar from 10.15 pm

Lahiri cards 64 to move into T-10

PUNTA CANA (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC): Anirban Lahiri shot his best round on the PGA Tour since 2018, producing a bogey-free 8-under 64 that catapulted him into the top-10 after 54 holes in the Corales Puntacana Resort and Club Championship. Lahiri rose from overnight T-54 to T-7.

East Bengal enter Indian Super League

NEW DELHI: It had been a while coming but on Sunday, Indian Super League (ISL) organisers Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) officially unveiled East Bengal as the 11th club in this year's competition.

SPOTLIGHT ON KOHLI

Kohli has had tough outings with scores of 14 and 1 so far. Sunil Gavaskar's comment on Kohli and his wife triggered a storm on social media the other night and put him in the spotlight. The batsman would be itching to let his bat do the talking.

RCB VS MI @ DUBAI

MUMBAI HOLD ACES

Rohit Sharma-led Mumbai Indians will have the upper hand when they face Virat Kohli's Royal Challengers Bangalore in Dubai on Monday. Talking points...

RCB'S LISTLESS PACERS

RCB's pacers Dale Steyn and Umesh Yadav proved expensive in both matches. Navdeep Saini, though, was effective against Hyderabad, but he went for plenty in the next versus Punjab. They might bring in Mohammed Siraj in place of Yadav. Once again, the onus will be on Yuzvendra Chahal, their key bowler, to check the run flow.

10

MI skipper Rohit Sharma needs 10 runs to complete 5000 runs in IPL. Only Virat Kohli (5427) and Suresh Raina (5368) have touched the mark so far.

HIGHEST CHASE

224 - RR vs KXIP, Sharjah, 2020

215 - RR vs DC, Hyderabad, 2008

HEAD-TO-HEAD

MI 16, RCB 9

(Excluding 2 Champions League T20 matches which MI won)

7

Out of 8 matches since 2016, Mumbai won 7 and Bangalore 1. MI won both the encounters last season.

1

One more century and Kohli will equal Chris Gayle's record of most centuries (6) in IPL.

PITCH & CONDITIONS

In the previous four matches in Dubai, teams winning the toss elected to field but ended up losing. The surface tends to get slow, helping spinners and making batting a bit difficult as the match progresses.

LAST 15 BALLS — COTTRELL 18TH OVER | SHAMI 19TH OVER | M ASHWIN 20TH OVER

6 6 6 6 0 6 W 6 6 1 6 W 0 W 4

● **Tewatia:** Before 18th over 17 off 23; end of innings 53 of 31 balls ● **Archer:** 13 off 3 balls

GONE IN 15 BALLS

Tewatia, Archer's late blows help Rajasthan clinch thrilling win over Punjab

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

SUNDAY witnessed one of the dramatic chases in the IPL, with Rajasthan Royals beating Kings XI Punjab by four wickets in a high-voltage clash in Sharjah. Steve Smith & Co chased down the target of 224 with three balls to spare after Mayank Agarwal's maiden IPL century.

After a bright start, Rajasthan's chase looked improbable when the equation came down to 51 from 18 balls. Rahul Tewatia was promoted to No 4 ahead of experienced Robin Uthappa after Smith departed for a 27-ball 50 in the 10th over. The leg-spinner scored 17 in the first 23 balls and struggled to get going in the middle, raising questions over team management's strange decision to promote him. However, he redeemed and completely turned the tide towards Rajasthan by hitting five sixes off Sheldon Cottrell in the 18th over. He scored 53 off 31. Though Sanju Samson and Steve Smith set the platform for the chase, it was Tewatia's finishing act which helped Rajasthan pull of the highest chase in the history of IPL. Sanju top-scored for the team with 85 while skipper Smith hit his second straight fifty.

Earlier, Agarwal destroyed the tag of a long-format specialist with a 50-ball 106. While the pandemic-enforced break has made a majority of the players rusty, it seems to have worked wonders for the Karnataka opener to tweak his game to meet the needs of T20 format. Twice in three matches this season, he has bettered his highest IPL score. He had made 89 in the opener against Delhi Capitals. On a pitch where even mishits sail over the boundary line — Sharjah is one of the smallest venues among the three in UAE — Agarwal's innings was filled with sublime timing and clean hitting.

Punjab's strategy was clear with KL Rahul setting himself well to play as many overs as possible, with Agarwal targeting the bowlers from the word go. And it worked as the Karnataka teammates stitched together a 183-run partnership for the first wicket. While Agarwal set the stage on fire with 10 fours and seven sixes, Rahul's innings of 69 included seven fours and a solitary six.

Brief scores: KXIP 223/2 in 20 ovs (Agarwal 106, Rahul 69) lost to **RR** 226/6 in 19.3 ovs (Samson 85, Tewatia 51, Smith 50).

Rajasthan's Rahul Tewatia hit a match-winning 53 runs on Sunday | SPORTZPICS

BADMINTON

Nine Indians set for meet in Germany

SRINIDHI P R @ Chennai

EIGHT men's shuttlers and a lone woman from India will be taking part in the SaarLorLux Open (Super 100) to be held from October 27 to November in Saarbrucken, Germany. According to the tournament entry list, the likes of Lakshya Sen and Ajay Jayaram are set to be in action in the men's section while Ira Sharma is the only woman player from the country in the Super 100 event.

With a string of tournaments getting cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic, some of the elite shuttlers have decided to participate in the event to get some much-needed game time.

In the men's section, World No 3 Anders Antonsen is the highest-ranked player while reigning Olympic champion and three-time world champ Carolina Marin will feature in the women's category in Saarbrucken.

Participation of top shuttlers in the competition means players such as S Sankar Muthusamy, Anirudh Janardhanan and SS Lakshmi Priyanka find themselves in the reserve list. They might have to wait longer to make their debut in the Super 100 event.

The three shuttlers from Tamil Nadu were hopeful of getting into the main draw with the thought that the elite players would not consider the event. However, with a month to go for the tournament to go, players might even pull out, effectively giving them an outside chance.

Lakshya is the defending champion in the men's section while Li Yun of China had won the women's title last year.

INDIANS IN SAARLORLUX OPEN

MEN: Lakshya Sen, Subhankar Dey, Ajay Jayaram, Chirag Sen, Mithun Manjunath, Kiran George, Alap Mishra, BM Rahul Bharadwaj. **Woman:** Ira Sharma.

Men's wrestling camp extended till Dec 31

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

NATIONAL camp for men wrestlers, which commenced on September 1 at SAI centre in Sonepat, has been extended till December 31. "Yes, the camp has been extended till the end of this year," Vinod Tomar, assistant secretary of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), confirmed to this daily.

Though the same set of wrestlers are likely to camp at the venue, the strength may increase with the inclusion of non-Olympic weight categories if United World Wrestling (UWW) confirms dates for the Senior and Junior World Championships. Around 20 freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestlers in Olympic weight categories are in the Sonepat camp at the moment.

The UWW's executive committee will meet on October 5 to discuss plans for the 2020 Worlds scheduled for mid-December in Belgrade. A questionnaire has already been sent to all national federations gauging their interest in the tournament as well as any concerns they might have.

"It all depends on the meeting scheduled on October 5. If dates for Worlds are finalised then wrestlers from non-Olympic categories may join the camp as well," said a source, who is part of the ongoing camp.

Meanwhile, the world body has updated its event calendar for the 2021 season. According to it, the Asian Championships will be held in Almaty, Kazakhstan from February 16-21. Asian Olympic Qualifier is slated from March 26-28 in Xian, China while World Olympic Games Qualifier is scheduled from April 29 to May 2 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Wow-rinka against Murray

AP @ Paris

FORMER champion Stan Wawrinka brushed aside Andy Murray 6-1, 6-3, 6-2 in the marquee match-up on the opening day of Roland Garros on Sunday.

Wawrinka, the 16th seed who took the title in 2015, had also come out on top when the two last met in Paris in a five-set semifinal in 2017.

In the women's singles, top-seeded Simona Halep won 10 straight games in beating Sara Sorribes Tormo 6-4, 6-0 to reach the second round on Sunday and extend her winning streak to 15 matches.

Wearing thick black leggings and a long-sleeved pink jersey to combat the chilly conditions on Court Philippe Chatrier, Halep made a series of unforced errors and trailed 4-2. But then she found her range, winning the first set with a hold to love and sealing victory on her first match point when her opponent clipped a forehand wide.

Simona Halep in action on Sunday | AP

US Open runner-up Victoria Azarenka experienced a vastly different temperature to Flushing Meadows only two weeks ago. The tenth-seeded fumed when match officials didn't immediately send her and opponent Danka Kovinic back to the locker-room during a rain interruption. "I am going to get frozen," she complained. "No. I'm not waiting here a couple of minutes because I'm cold. It's eight degrees, eight degrees, I live in Florida..." Still, she made short work of her match, beating Kovinic 6-1, 6-2. **Monday's matches (select):** Men: Dominic Thiem (AUT x3) vs Marin Cilic (CRO), Egor Gerasimov (BLR) vs Rafael Nadal (ESP x2). **Women:** Kristie Ahn (USA) vs Serena Williams (USA x6), Elina Svitolina (UKR x3) vs Varvara Gracheva.

SELECT RESULTS (ROUND 1)

Men: J Sinner (ITA) bt D Goffin (BEL x11) 7-5, 6-0, 6-3; S Korda (USA) bt A Seppi (ITA) 6-2, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3. Women: S Halep (ROM x1) bt S Sorribes Tormo (ESP) 6-4, 6-0; M Sakkari (GRE x20) bt A Tomljanovic (AUS) 6-0, 7-5; E Alexandrova (RUS x27) bt M Inglis (AUS) 6-3, 6-3; E Mertens (BEL x16) bt M Gasparyan (RUS) 6-2, 6-3; V Azarenka (BLR x10) bt D Kovinic (MNE) 6-1, 6-2.

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (HUDCO)
Bengaluru Regional Office
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)
CIN: L74899DL1970GOI005276 GSTN: 29AAACH0632A1Z9
An ISO 9001: 2015 Certified Company
N-703 & 704, 7th Floor, Manipal Centre, Dickenson Road, Bengaluru-560042.
Mobile No: 9871715669 e-Mail: bro@hudco.org / sangeetam@hudco.org
RFP No.: HUDCO/BRO/Consultancy/2020 Date: 25.09.2020
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
HUDCO invites E-Tender from eligible institutions for hiring the services of a social survey agency to conduct household socio-economic survey in 61 towns of Bangalore division of Karnataka as per the scope detailed in the RFP.
Interested institutions can download the RFP Document from HUDCO's website: **https://www.hudco.org or https://www.tenderwizard.com/HUDCO.** Download Start date is **29.09.2020.** The Last date of Online Bid Submission is **16.10.2020.** Corrigendum etc, if any, shall be published on the above websites only for appropriate action by intending tenderer.
Sd/- Regional Chief

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of Health Officer, Mini Vidhana Soudha, Palike Offices, Yelahanka Zone, Bengaluru-560064
No.: HO(YZ)/TEN-11/20-21 Date : 25-09-2020
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)
The Health Officer, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP invites tenders from eligible bidders for **Supply of Drugs & Medical Consumables for Home Isolation Patients in Yelahanka Zone, BBMP for Covid-19 Control.**
Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from e-Procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from **28.09.2020, 3.00 PM. (2)** Date and time of Pre-bid meeting: **30.09.2020 at 3.00 PM. (3)** Last date and time for online bid submission: **05.10.2020 at 11.00 AM. (4)** Date and time of online technical bid opening: **05.10.2020 at 4.00 PM. (5)** Date of opening of Price Bid: **Shall be intimated to qualified bidders.** Under signed reserves all Authority the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/- Health Officer, Yelahanka Zone, BBMP
"Pay development charges, help to develop Bengaluru"

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
'Khanij Bhavan', 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad - 500 028, CIN- L13100TG1958GOI001674
E-Tender Notice (Open Tender Enquiry for Domestic Bidding)
CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT/ENGINEERING & PROJECTS DIVISION
Tender Enquiry No: HO (Contracts)/ PCS/DIOM/2020/223 Dated 28.09.2020
[MSTC Ref. No.: NMDC/HO/42/20-21/ET/500]
NMDC invites bids in e-tender mode on MSTC website (NMDC's e-tender service provider): **http://www.mstcecommerce.com** for the work of **"Design, Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Process Control System for Crushing Plant and Loading Plant of Donimalai Iron Ore Mine (DIOM), Donimalai, Karnataka on Lump Sum Turnkey (LSTK) basis and Comprehensive AMC (CAMC) for 3 years."**
For viewing/downloading the schedule of e-bidding and the detailed NIT alongwith pre-qualification requirements and tender document, prospective bidders may visit MSTC web site link: **http://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/nmdc/** and register on-line as 'New Vendor'. For further help, the 'Vendor Guide' given therein may be referred. Link to MSTC e-tender platform is also available through NMDC website **www.nmdc.co.in**. The tender documents can also be accessed from NMDC website: **www.nmdc.co.in** and CPP Portal **http://eprocure.gov.in**.
Any corrigendum to the tender will be uploaded only in above mentioned websites. Prospective bidders should visit these websites from time to time to take note of corrigendum, if any.
For further clarification, **CGM (Contracts)**, NMDC Ltd., Hyderabad can be contacted on fax: **040 - 2353 4746**, Tel: **040 - 2353 2800**, email: **contracts@nmdc.co.in**
Chief General Manager (Contracts)
हर एक काम देश के नाम इस्पाती इरादा

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR CELL SCIENCE, (NCCS) PUNE
(An Autonomous Institution of the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.)
Savitribai Phule Pune University Campus, Pune - 411007
Advt.No.-PMC/P-02/Online/2020
SUB:ONLINE INTERVIEWS FOR PROJECT POSITIONS UNDER EXTRA-MURAL PROJECTS.
Online Applications are invited for different project positions to be filled purely on temporary basis at NCCS under extramural projects. Please send the application through email on **pmconline@nccs.res.in**
For the detailed specifications of the post/s, the prescribed application format and other terms and conditions, please see our **Advt.No.PMC/P02/Online/2020** under **Project Positions** in **Careers** tab on our website (**www.nccs.res.in**). For any updates please check our website.
Director, NCCS

Government of Karnataka
Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Finance Department,
Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru
No.: FD 01 BMB 2020 Date: 24.09.2020
KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT STOCK (SECURITIES)
1. **Aggregate Amount** : **Total Rs. 2000 Crore (Rs.1000 Crore - 10 Year Tenure and Rs.1000 Crore - 11 Year Tenure)**
2. **Method of Issue** : **By auction, through PDO, RBI, Mumbai (Fort)**
3. **Date of auction** : **September 29, 2020**
Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bengaluru. Non-competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non-competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in**
DIPR/DDU/25/MCA/20-21

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement)
BESCOM invites tenders from the eligible bidders vide Enquiry Nos.: **BESCOM/BCP-1230/2020-21 to BESCOM/BCP-1247/2020-21 (18 Enq. Nos.)** for Nelamangala, Hosakote, Ramanagar, Magadi, Kanakapura, Chandapura, Kolar, KGF, Chikkaballapura, Chinthamani, Tumakur, Tiptur, Madhugiri, Kunigal, Davanagere, Harihara, Chitradurga and Hiriyuru Divisions respectively for execution of CAPEX works (Action plan works) and works under revenue budget under item wise fixed price contract in Bengaluru Rural Area Zone and Chitradurga Zone for a period of two years on total / partial turnkey basis (Distrubution Transformers supplied by BESCOM) under percentage quoting on each item basis.
Bid document available from: 05.10.2020 onwards to 03.11.2020 upto 15:00 Hrs. **Last date for bid submission:** 03.11.2020, 15:00 Hrs. **Opening of bid document:** 04.11.2020, 15:15 Hrs. All the payments such as tender cost, EMD, etc. shall be made through e-payment mode. Further, bidders can take assistance with e-procurement help desk at 080-25501216 and 080-25501227 or website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/-
The General Manager (Ele.) Procurement, BESCOM
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
SEE/T/(W&M)/MYS/EEE(O)/AEE-2/2020-21/3570-72 Date : 23-09-2020
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)
KPTCL invites bids for below Works and goods tenders on **Total Turnkey Basis.**
1) **Bid Enquiry Nos.** KPTCL/SEE/TCM/MYS/R&M/56 Dt: 22-09-2020 for Drying out core & winding assembly compounded by vaccum to bring down the moisture from insulation of 220/66kV 100 MVA Power Transformer-1 & 2 at 220 kV Kadakola R/s.
2) **Bid Enquiry Nos**. KPTCL/SEE/TCM/MYS/R&M/57 Dt: 22-09-2020 for Combined package for Strengthening of 66kV Bus by Drake ACSR at various 66/11kV Substations pertaining to Hootagally TL&SS Div, Mysuru .
The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website : **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "e-procurement-kptcl" or **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**. on or after **30-09-2020**. Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elec., Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, 1st Floor, Prasarana Bhavana, FTS Compound, N.R.Mohalla, Mysuru - 570 007, Phone : 0821-2455018.

CIDCO
WE MAKE CITIES
NOTICE INVITING BID
Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Flood Lights including 4 year operation & comprehensive maintenance after one year DLP for practice Football pitches in proposed centre of excellecne in International Corporate Park (ICP) at Kharghar, Navi Mumbai.
CIDCO of Maharashtra Limited through the process of e-tendering invites **"ON LINE"** item rate bids from the experienced prospective bidders fulfilling the mandatory eligibility criteria, registered with CIDCO Ltd. or with Central Govt., or with State Govt. of Maharashtra and its undertakings in appropriate class & category and the authorizes LED manufacture who have completed work of Similar nature like Design, Supply Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Flood Lights for any of the National or International Sports facility for the work mentioned below:
1) Name of Work : Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Flood Lights including 4 year operation & comprehensive maintenance after one year DLP for practice Football pitches in proposed centre of excellecne in International Corporate Park (ICP) at Kharghar, Navi Mumbai. 2) C. A. No.: 01/CIDCO/EE(Elect-CP)/2020-21 **3) E.M.D.:** Rs. 9,50,000/- **4) Registration Class :** Class – A in Electrical Work (Unlimited) (For Authorized Manucacturer, Registration is not mandatory) **5) Completion Period :** 275 (Two Hundred Seventy Five) Days (including monsoon) **6) Tender Processing Fee :** Rs. 11,800/- (Rupees Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred only) (including 18% GST) (Non-Refundable)
Bidding Programme will be available on the website https://mahatenders.gov.in from 05/10/2020 from 17.01 Hrs.
Superintending Engineer (CP)
CIN - U99999 MH 1970 SGC-014574
www.cidco.maharashtra.gov.in
CIDCO/PR/121/2020-21

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Island nations' voices get louder on climate crisis

New study claims if world warms another 0.9°C, sea level could see a 5-metre rise

GLOBAL WARMING

JOHANNESBURG: In a year of cataclysm, some world leaders at this week's annual United Nations meeting are taking the long view, warning: If Covid-19 doesn't kill us, climate change will. With Siberia seeing its warmest temperature on record this year and enormous chunks of ice caps in Greenland and Canada sliding into the sea, countries are acutely aware there's no vaccine for global warming.

"We are already seeing a version of environmental Armageddon," Fiji's PM Frank Bainimarama said, citing wildfires in the western US and noting that the Greenland ice chunk was larger than a number of island nations.

This was meant to be the year "we took back our planet," he said. Instead, the coronavirus has diverted resources and attention from what could have been the marquee issue at this UN gathering. Meanwhile, the UN global climate summit has been postponed to late 2021.

That hasn't stopped countries, from slowly sinking island nations to parched African ones, from speaking out.

"In another 75 years, many ... members may no longer hold seats at the United Nations if the world continues on its present course," the Alliance of Small Island States and the Least Developed Countries Group said.

The main goal of the 2015 Paris climate accord is to limit the rise in global temperatures to 2°C above pre-industrial times, but scientists say the world is on track to soar past that. A new study found that if the world warms another 0.9°C, the West Antarctic ice sheet will reach a point of irreversible melting. It has enough water to raise global sea levels by 5 metres.

> In another 75 years, many ... members may no longer hold seats at the United Nations if the world continues on its present course
>
> Alliance of Small Island States and the Least Developed Countries Group

Urgent pleas also came from Africa, which contributes least to global warming, but stands to suffer from it the most.

"In favouring solutions based on the respect for nature, we're also preserving the health of our peoples," said President Issoufou Mahamadou of Niger, part of the Sahel region south of the Sahara desert where temperature increases are expected to be 1.5 times higher than the world average.

FACT OF THE MATTER

Fossil gift for Prince George

SHARK TOOTH

Veteran broadcaster and naturalist David Attenborough has given UK's Prince George a giant shark tooth fossil after a private viewing of his new documentary at Kensington Palace. Photos released by the palace showed the seven-year-old prince looking intrigued as he looked at the tooth from a carcharocles megalodon, a species that lived more than 3 million years ago and was three times the size of modern great white sharks.

Limit for free Google Meet

60 MINS CAP

Google Meet users will not be able to use the video meet app for an unlimited time from September 30 as the free version of Meet will be limited to meetings no longer than 60 minutes. In April, the tech giant said that meetings are limited to 60 minutes for the free product, though it won't enforce this time limit until after September 30 as more and more people worked from home during the pandemic.

EXFILE

How floating plastic is killing sea turtles

Plastic pollution has been found in practically every environment on the planet, with especially severe effects on ocean life. In a recent study, researchers found that baby loggerhead sea turtles on Florida's beaches were consuming plastic in large quantities. We take a look

SAMPLE

Researchers examined gastrointestinal (GI) tracts of 42 post-hatchling loggerhead turtles stranded in Florida

FINDINGS

Autopsies revealed plastic fragments ranging from **0.36 to 12.39 mm** in size from the **GI tracts of 39 of the 42 animals**

1.23%

Post-hatchlings weighed from 16.0 to 47.59 g yielding a plastic to body weight percentage of up to 1.23%

Several types of plastic fragments were isolated, but hard fragments and sheet plastic were the most common type

EFFECT ON BODY

Consuming such large quantities of plastic increases the likelihood that broken-down plastic nanoparticles or chemicals that leach from them will enter turtles' bloodstreams, with unknown health effects

Ingested plastic can also block turtles' stomachs or intestines and can limit the amount of space that's physically available for consuming and digesting genuine prey that they need to survive and grow

OCEAN OF PLASTIC: A GROWING, HIDDEN THREAT TO THE SEA LIFE

Ocean plastic pollution originates mostly from land-based sources, such as landfills and manufacturing plants

2,00,000 TONNES of tiny plastic particles from degraded tires are carried into the oceans every year by the wind, a recent study estimates

11 MN TONNES of plastic enter the ocean each year and this amount is projected to grow to 29 million tonnes by 2040

HOW TO CONTROL THIS MENACE

Researchers opine that improving methods for recycling plastics, developing bio-based plastics, banning single-use plastic items in favour of more sustainable or reusable alternatives and reducing shipment of plastic waste abroad to countries with lax regulatory regimes can help reduce waste

NASA astronauts already preparing for moonwalks

ARTEMIS

WASHINGTON: As NASA plans to return humans to the Moon in 2024 as part of the Artemis programme, the American space agency has already started preparing astronauts for the challenges that they will face on the lunar surface.

The training includes performing tasks underwater in especially built giant pools and using different analog environments to simulate lunar conditions.

As part of a test series occurring in the Neutral Buoyancy Lab (NBL) at Johnson Space Center in Houston, astronauts in a demonstration version of the exploration spacesuit and engineers in "hard hat" dive equipment are simulating several different tasks crew could do on the surface of the Moon, NASA said.

"This early testing will help determine the best complement of facilities for hardware development and requirements for future Artemis training and missions," said Daren Welsh, extravehicular activity test lead for these Artemis preparation test runs.

The NBL is 202 feet in length, 102 feet in width and 40 feet in depth (20 ft above ground level and 20 ft below) and holds 6.2 million gallons of water.

Astronauts are practicing a variety of tasks, including picking up samples of lunar regolith, examining a lunar lander, and planting an American flag.

There are many fundamentals that the teams have to consider and work through, such as how crew might get up and down a ladder safely, how to swing a chisel safely, and how to conduct successful moonwalks in different lighting conditions than the Apollo-era moonwalks.

The tests will inform future mission planning, including how many spacewalks to conduct during a mission, how long they will be, and how far away from a lander the crew will travel.

ISS to get toilet worth $23 million

NASA is all set to launch this week a $23 million advanced bathroom to the International Space Station (ISS) to test out before using a similar system on future Moon and Mars missions

The toilet is scheduled to launch, along with other cargo, on Northrop Grumman's contract resupply mission to ISS from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia on Sept 29

Called the Universal Waste Management System (UWMS), it will be smaller, more comfortable and support a larger crew

The $23 million toilet system is 65% smaller and 40% lighter than the toilet currently in use on the ISS

A new feature of the UWMS is the automatic start of air flow when the toilet lid is lifted, which also helps with odour control

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